

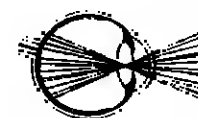
Tehran: Missing Iranians are alive

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran said Wednesday that four Iranians missing in Lebanon since 1982, whose case is linked to freedom for Western hostages, are alive. But the Iranian announcement came less than a day after U.S. President George Bush turned over information to Iran supporting his earlier assertion that the four are dead. The Islamic Republic News Agency, quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Mortaza Sarmadi as saying: "Following the Islamic Republic's inquiry into the fate of Iranian hostages in Lebanon, we have got information from reliable sources over the past few days that our hostages are alive. We are glad to hear this. The Islamic Republic will continue efforts to obtain more detailed information about the situation of its hostages." In its five-paragraph dispatch, the agency quoted Sarmadi as saying Iran hoped that Western countries can help secure the release of "innocent" Iranians held hostage for eight years. Sarmadi did not say who the "reliable sources" were.

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Turkey asks Iraq, Syria to talks on sharing water

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has invited Iraq and Syria to hold talks next month on sharing the waters of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, a thorny issue between the three neighbours. The foreign ministry said Wednesday that neither had so far replied to the invitation to a ministerial-level meeting in Ankara on June 26-27. A tripartite June meeting was agreed during Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut's official visit to Baghdad in April but the date was left open. Iraq and Syria objected to Ankara's diversion of the Euphrates for one month in January to fill a new dam.

1 killed in Gabon port

PORT GENTIL (R) — The body of the first civilian to die in Gabon's worst civil unrest in 30 years was found Wednesday as troops roamed the country's oil capital, Port Gentil, and sporadic gunfire rang out. Witnesses said the middle-aged man was shot dead near his home in the Grand village district. They had no further details. Authorities said the army, using powers under a state of emergency, declared Monday, was in control after a week of riots against President Omar Bongo that threatened the country's vital oil industry. On Tuesday a Gabonese paratrooper was killed and 12 civilians injured in clashes, the official media said.

Algerian black marketeers clash with police

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian youths, alleged to be a police raid on a black market, rioted for six hours, burning two police vehicles and a municipal lorry, Radio Algeria said Wednesday. Riot police were deployed to restore order in Tablat town 70 kilometres east of Algiers Monday night, the radio said. Rioting erupted when police seized goods worth 10 million dinars (\$1.25 million) from a black market stall and detained the owner. The radio did not say whether any demonstrators had been arrested.

Bhutto visits carnage town

HYDERABAD, Pakistan (R) — The death toll in four days of ethnic violence in southern Pakistan rose to 200 on Wednesday as Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto visited the town of Hyderabad, scene of some of the worst bloodletting. Strict security was in force with troops patrolling the streets as Bhutto arrived in Hyderabad which has been largely peaceful since the weekend when about 100 people were killed. But the violence continued in Karachi, the capital of Sindh province, with doctors reporting 24 people dead and 30 injured in the latest gunbattles. Bhutto is under increasing pressure to take some form of initiative to end the violence in the province which pits Mohajirs — Muslim migrants from India — against ethnic Sindhis.

Yeltsin seeks to form coalition

MOSCOW (AP) — Newly elected Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin sat down with 130 legislators in the Kremlin Wednesday to begin forming a coalition government for the largest republic in the Soviet Union. Legislators said Yeltsin immediately came under pressure to retain Alexander Vlasov, as Russian prime minister. Vlasov is a member of the Communist Party politburo who had been Yeltsin's rival in Tuesday balloting. Yeltsin opened Wednesday's meeting with one condition — that one of his deputies be a woman, legislators said. Yeltsin, a frequent critic of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, was reported to have gained the last few votes needed to win the race by agreeing to guarantee a place in his government for other factions. Although 86 per cent of the Russian legislators are Communist Party members, they range from radical reformers like Yeltsin to hard liners with Gorbachev's innovations.

King hails success of summit

Political decision to support Jordan near translation into reality

By Mahmoud Al Kayed and George Hawatmeh

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein has hailed as "highly successful" the emergency Arab summit which ended in Baghdad yesterday and said that Jordan's views and positions on various issues had received full understanding and due support from all Arab leaders attending the summit.

"I believe the results of the summit have been extremely positive and encouraging," His Majesty told Jordanian newspaper editors at a working dinner late Tuesday night. "The summit as a whole was highly successful," he said.

"Furthermore," the King said, "Jordan's long-held views and positions on various issues facing the Arab World have been widely acclaimed and supported by our brothers meeting in Baghdad."

His Majesty said that, following his clear and frank message to the summit, the Arab leaders fully understood Jordan's economic and financial problems and pledged to do all they could to support the Kingdom's security and steadfastness.

"Our Arab brothers realise fully the heavy burden and the great responsibilities that Jordan carries and shoulders as a frontline state," he said. "Consequently they have pledged strong support for Jordan's security as part of pan-Arab

security and strength."

"A political decision has been taken to support Jordan financially, economically and politically," His Majesty said. "Very soon, we should be entering the stage of translating the political will of our Arab brothers in the Gulf into solid and practical steps to enable the Kingdom to continue playing its crucial role in protecting the Arab World from its enemies and all designs and schemes against it," His Majesty said.

The King did not go into details of Jordan's needs at the present, but a senior aide to His Majesty said that the Kingdom expected that forthcoming financial assistance from Gulf countries should be much larger than the \$360 million envisaged as Arab financial assistance in the 1990 budget.

Government sources have been estimating that Jordan needed about \$1 billion a year for several years to maintain an acceptable level of military preparedness and economic health, taking into account as well the servicing of its foreign debts which total \$8 billion.

The senior aide dismissed as "speculation" all figures of expected financial assistance mentioned or reported during or immediately after the Baghdad summit. "As His Majesty said, as of now there is only a political decision to support Jordan financially, basically by Saudi

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian delegation attend the Arab summit in Baghdad (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Arab leaders to counter challenges with unity

Summit lambasts U.S. for its support of Israel, rallies behind Iraq against Western campaign, reaffirms support for Jordan and intifada, and warns countries supporting Jewish immigration

By P.V. Vivekanand with agency dispatches

AN EMERGENCY summit concluded in Baghdad Wednesday with sharp criticism of the United States for its financial, military and political support for Israel and called for political and economic sanctions against countries which support Jewish immigration to Palestine or recognise Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

In a 20-page final communiqué, 18 Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) — representing the State of Palestine — also threw their weight behind Iraq against what is widely seen as a Western campaign against Baghdad's efforts to build its military and technological capabilities.

The Arab leaders called for increased support for the 30-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and for international protection for the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories.

The summit pledged financial and political support for Jordan but did not make any specific commitment. Instead, it left it to individual Arab states and Jordan to work out the assistance.

The communiqué, read out by Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibi, urged an end to the influx of Jewish migrants to Palestine and warned that the Arab states' relations with other countries would depend on the basis of the latter's stand towards the "national rights of the Palestinians and the emigration of

Jews."

The summit urged the United Nations to create an international panel to ensure Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel are not settled in "Palestine and other occupied territories" — meaning to include the Golan Heights as well as South Lebanon.

The Arab leaders, who renewed the mandate of a tripartite committee entrusted with resolving the Lebanese problem, called for the creation of an international fund to rebuild that war-ravaged country.

The communiqué emphasised Iraq's "legitimate right to self-defence and its right to defend itself against any aggression with whatever means it sees fit." It was the clearest yet expression of Arab

(Continued on page 5)

King returns home; Badran underlines Arab understanding

By Caroline Farraj Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Wednesday after attending the three-day emergency Arab summit in Baghdad and expressed confidence that Arab financial assistance to Jordan was forthcoming.

"I am confident that our Arab brethren will respond to our needs," the King told reporters at the airport, expressing his strong conviction that the Arab leaders who attended the summit "were put in the picture and are keen on allowing Jordan to maintain its steadfastness and continue playing role in safeguarding the Arab Nation."

His Majesty was received upon arrival by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the speakers of the two houses of Parliament, Cabinet members, Royal Court officials, senior Armed Forces and civilian officials.

In a cable he sent to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein upon his departure from Baghdad, the King thanked the Iraqi leader and people for the hospitality offered to him and the Jordanian delegation attending the summit.

"Jordan is the land which forms the defensive Arab shield in the face of all dangers and threats," the message said. "It always has been and will continue to be, through (Arab) solidarity and commitment to support it. Jordan was and will be with you against any challenge facing the Arab Nation in any part of the Arab World regardless of how great the effort would be. Our meeting was enriched by the responsible, brotherly atmosphere which prevailed and our Arab Nation proved its capabilities and determination to secure its rights and proceed constantly towards

achieving strength, advancement and just and honourable peace for the future generations and enriching human civilisation..." A large gathering of cheering and flag-waving citizens lined the streets leading from the Marka airport to the Royal Palace to greet the King upon his return from Baghdad.

Badran echoes confidence

The confidence that the King voiced of the Arab leaders' understanding of Jordan's situation and problems which His Majesty outlined to them in his speech to the summit Monday, was echoed by Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

The Arab leaders "promised not to abandon Jordan and affirmed their support" for the Kingdom, Badran told reporters gathered at the airport. The prime minister, who accompanied the King to the summit along with Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, did not give any specific figure of Arab commitment of aid to Jordan.

The prime minister said military support was not discussed at the summit but added that all Arab countries "are always ready to offer the required support for any Arab state whenever needed."

Badran rejected reports that Jordan had asked for merger with Saudi Arabia. "This issue was not discussed at the summit or in bilateral talks," he said. "We never proposed such a thing."

Answering questions, the prime minister said all Arab leaders had wanted Syria, which

(Continued on page 5)

PLF claims 'revenge attack' for massacre

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — A Palestinian group said it launched a sea attack against Israel Wednesday to avenge the mass killing of Arab workers last week.

"In response to the tears of mothers and the screams of children and the wounds and in retaliation for the Zionist massacre against our workers... our elite naval units moved to teach the enemy a lesson of combat on the coast of Palestine," the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) said in a statement.

Israel said its troops killed four guerrillas and captured 12 after a two-pronged speedboat attack north and south of Tel Aviv. It said none of its soldiers or civilians were hurt.

The PLF, led by Abu Abbas, is part of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. It was responsible for the 1985 hijack of the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro.

An Israeli gunman shot dead seven Palestinian labourers in the town of Rishon LeZion May 20. Israeli warplanes flew over two Palestinian refugee camps in the southern port of Sidon as the statement was released. They were met by a hail of anti-aircraft fire.

Security sources said Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon were on high alert in anticipation of Israeli retaliation.

The PLF said the attack was "to draw up new features for armed struggle against the Zionist enemy, to liberate Palestine and achieve the freedom of our struggling people."

In a communiqué issued in Baghdad, where an Arab summit was winding up, the PLF said guerrillas aboard the speedboats aimed to clash with the Israeli navy and land to attack selected

targets. "All six boats succeeded in reaching their targets... and were continuing to clash in all positions," it said.

Israel said only two boats reached the coast, one of which was intercepted off the shore at G'ash north of Tel Aviv and its occupants captured.

It said the other landed on a crowded beach at Nitzanim south of Tel Aviv, where troops killed four guerrillas and captured seven.

Police ordered the evacuation of thousands of Israelis from a 50 kilometre stretch of beaches south of Tel Aviv. Many other Israelis were ordered to stay at home as soldiers and rifle-toting civilians manned roadblocks.

Hussein Al Abed, the PLF representative in Baghdad and a member of the PLO Central Committee, said the guerrillas attacked "selected and limited targets on the Palestinian coast."

Abed confirmed the Israeli reports that four Palestinian guerrillas were killed but insisted that another 11 were still fighting and refused to surrender.

Abed said the attack was to avenge the killing of Khalil Al Wazir, who was killed by a commando widely believed to be Israeli in Tunis in April 1988.

The Israeli army's intelligence chief, Amnon Shahak, said Libya had helped the guerrillas prepare for the attack.

The Israeli army said a mothership which sailed from Benghazi, Libya, let loose the smaller craft in the Mediterranean about 120 nautical miles from Israel's coast. It said the guerrillas were armed with Katyusha rockets, grenades and rifles.

Hurd arrives on two-day visit Britain to increase assistance to Jordan

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Britain will increase its annual aid to Jordan by 60 per cent over the next three years to reach almost £25 million, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Wednesday.

In a statement to the press upon his arrival here on a two-day visit — "at the right time following the emergency Arab summit in Baghdad," according to a British official — Hurd reaffirmed his country's support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. "We believe in the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination," he said.

He also reaffirmed London's opposition to Israel's settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "We believe that the settlement of Jews from the Soviet Union in the occupied territories and East Jerusalem is illegal and wrong," he said. "It is a good thing that they (Soviet Jews) are allowed to leave the Soviet Union but it cannot be right to correct one injustice by imposing another."

The British foreign secretary, on his first visit to Jordan after assuming office last year, said: "I look forward to hearing about the Baghdad summit from those who attended. I'd like to hear what happened and what the consequences are."

Hurd, who is expected to be

received by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan as well as Prime Minister Mudar Badran Thursday, said Britain stood ready along with its European allies to make whatever contribution it could towards a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The best first step towards a Middle East solution is an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, Hurd said. He said that first step was almost achieved as a result of a proposal tabled by American Secretary of State James Baker who suggested that the venue be Cairo after consultations among the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel and himself. "But we don't have a government in Israel which is ready to pursue that course," said Hurd, referring to the collapse of the Likud-Labour coalition government in Israel over the Baker proposal.

According to Hurd, the Baker proposal remains the "best course to take because it naturally will lead to an international peace conference."

"But if the Israelis are not prepared to talk to Palestinians then there will be no reasonable outcome," he added.

He said that progress towards peace had been made in the region as a result of efforts exerted by King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and the switch to moderation by the PLO as well as to some

Qadhafi spurs summit laughter

BAGHDAD (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on Wednesday surprised his allies and critics with a sense of humour that sent the closing session of the emergency Arab summit into bursts of laughter.

He prompted a rare humorous comment from Iraq's no-nonsense President Saddam Hussein, also sending waves of laughter sweeping across the conference hall.

"I demand that birth control be dropped and that we multiply our population," Qadhafi said.

"I want the (Arab World of 150 million) population to reach a billion. If the Israelis have the means to trigger nuclear explosions, then we can trigger population explosion. This way Palestine can become a graveyard for Israel."

Amid bursts of laughter around the conference hall, the Iraqi president interjected: "O brother Muammar, if you really mean that about multiplying the

(Continued on page 5)

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Arafat likely to go to Tehran in peace bid, PLO official says

BAGHDAD (R) — A leading member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Wednesday PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat would probably go to Tehran to try and arrange direct peace talks between Iraqi and Iranian leaders.

PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo told Reuters: "I think it's likely. There will be mediation to find a way to settle the conflict between Iran and Iraq."

"The main objective will be direct talks between the parties concerned."

"A U.N.-sponsored ceasefire in the eight-year Iran-Iraq war went into effect in August 1988 but efforts to achieve a peace settlement remain deadlocked."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein wrote to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in April suggesting a meeting in Mecca and other confidence-building measures towards a permanent settlement.

Arafat and Rafsanjani have

also exchanged letters. PLO sources said.

About a million people are estimated to have been killed or wounded in the Gulf war, which also severely damaged the economies of the two countries.

In a speech Monday to the Arab summit in Baghdad, Saddam Hussein said he hoped his exchange of letters with Rafsanjani would lead to a comprehensive peace.

"The peace agreement should establish the rights of everyone and make non-aggression a permanent policy, so that the door of evil is closed forever," he said.

Arafat also referred to the peace overtures Monday. He asked the Iranian government "to

turn the page on the bloody past and join us (the Arabs) in confrontation with the common Zionist enemy and its patrons."

He said Rafsanjani had given an encouraging response to the Iraqi leader's letter and a positive answer to his own.

Relations between Iran and the PLO suffered during the Gulf war over Arafat's support for Iraq. Iran said Saddam Hussein's first letter proposed a meeting in Mecca, speeding up the release of prisoners of war, free access to Muslim shrines in Iran and Iraq and the revival of the 1975 Algiers Agreement.

Iraq denies it covered the Algiers Agreement, which readjusted the border in the Shatt Al Arab Waterway in favour of Iran and which was a factor in the outbreak of war.

The speaker of the Iranian parliament, Mehdi Karubi, told a news conference Tuesday Tehran might agree to a meeting of the Iraqi and Iranian presidents if Baghdad proved sincere

in its call for peace, Tehran Radio reported.

"If the other side shows goodwill, it is possible for talks between presidents of the two countries to take place," the radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Karubi as saying.

He said Iran would reply to a second letter from Saddam Hussein.

Tehran Press reports said Iran had stressed what it claimed was Iraq's responsibility for starting the war in its reply to the first letter.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velsayati says a Gulf war ceasefire depends on Iraq's acceptance of international agreements.

Velsayati told Friday prayer leaders in Tehran Tuesday that "Iraq's true goodwill depends upon its commitment to international agreements and Iran-Iraq accords," the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said Wednesday.

Musawi: Report of Iranians death bad for hostages

BEIRUT (R) — A senior pro-Iranian leader said Wednesday the U.S. report that three Iranians who disappeared in Lebanon were dead was bad news for the American hostages.

Washington said Tuesday it had officially informed Tehran that from evidence it had gathered it had concluded that three Iranians and their Lebanese driver kidnapped by Christian militiamen in 1982 were dead.

"This is a badwill gesture... if the four were killed then the Americans bear the responsibility because they back the Christian militia which kidnapped them... this will not reflect well on the U.S. hostages at all," Hussein Musawi told Reuters.

Musawi is a leader of Hizbollah (Party of God) which is believed by the West to be an umbrella for groups holding 15 Westerners, including six Americans, in Lebanon.

Musawi said that any fresh hostage releases would be delayed because of the American statement.

"If nothing worse happens, the least thing expected is that if things were going in a positive path regarding the hostage problem, then any solution is going to be delayed," Musawi said.

Washington said Tuesday President George Bush had ordered a new investigation about the fate of the missing Iranians because of Tehran's concern.

"We have made a major effort at collecting information from other countries, from international

organisations and from private sources that have developed in the region over the years," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Tuesday.

"We have passed this information along to the government of Iran," through Swiss authorities, Fitzwater said. "Essentially our conclusions are the same, that the four individuals they were concerned about were dead."

Musawi said "if this is proved, then the reaction will not be good... the hostage problem is heading towards further complications but nobody can tell how, where and what yet. Sure, things are not to the benefit of the hostages."

The Tehran-backed leader said Tuesday shortly before the White House statement the issue of the American hostages was frozen because of Washington's policy.

Musawi said "some Islamic groups and officials in Syria and Iran are annoyed by the Americans and their deeds."

Americans Robert Pollard and Frank Reed were released in April in what their captors said was a goodwill gesture.

"The ball is in the American court. The Americans should indicate practically that they have understood the initiative that led to the release of the two hostages," he said.

Asked about three British hostages, Musawi said Tuesday "There is a possibility that there would be a certain move" concerning them.

Syrians storm Shi'ite militia hideouts in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian troops seized arms from rival Shi'ite Muslim groups Wednesday in raids aimed at heading off new clashes between the factions in west Beirut, police reported.

The Syrians also closed militia offices and banned the gunmen from wearing military fatigues, police said.

Large quantities of weapons were seized in buildings and apartments used by the pro-Iranian Hizbollah, or Party of God, and the Syrian-backed Amal militia in the day-long raids across Beirut's mainly Muslim sector, police reported.

Syrian troops, armed with automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers, arrested a number of gunmen who were on the streets with pistols, police said.

Syrian patrols moved around all across the city's Muslim sector.

The soldiers also set up checkpoints in the Wadi Abn Jamil,

Bourj Abu Haidar, Jnah, Bir Hassan and Ouzai districts.

The two factions fought street battles last week in which five people were killed and 42 wounded.

Amal and Hizbollah have been fighting intermittently since May 1987 for dominance of Lebanon's 1.2 million Shi'ites, the country's largest sect.

At least 1,049 people have been killed and 3,136 wounded in the power struggle.

Beirut's prestigious An Nahar daily said Wednesday the "rough measures, designed to head off the recurrence of street gunbattles between Amal and Hizbollah in west Beirut, will continue."

The Syrian crackdown was launched after Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam held separate talks with Sheikh Mohammad Rashed Kabbani, the senior Sunni Muslim cleric in Lebanon, and Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine, the Shi'ite spiritual leader.

Yemen halts buying arms after unity — president

BAGHDAD (R) — Yemen has stopped buying arms because unity between the North and South of the country means they are no longer needed, the president of the week-old republic has said.

"We have decided to freeze arms contracts because we are a nation that wants peace and stability," President Ali Abdullah Saleh told a news conference in Baghdad.

"We have no intention of becoming an arsenal. Both Yemens were spending millions of dollars to arm themselves against each other," he said.

Official statistics show North Yemen spent \$471 million on defence and security in 1988 — around 27 per cent of total expenditure. Recent figures for the South are not available.

The North and South proclaimed a united republic on May 22, six days ahead of the Arab League summit in the Iraqi capital.

Ali Salem Al Beidh, former secretary general of the ruling Socialist Party in Aden and now

Yemeni vice-president, said economic development would be the priority for the new republic.

He said it had passed legislation giving guarantees to Arab and foreign investors, but would also seek to develop its own resources.

Yemen, whose population of about 12 million is the biggest in the Arabian peninsula, produces around 200,000 barrels of oil per day.

Beidh said Soviet military and other advisers in the South would stay. "The united country is responsible for all agreements and commitments entered into by the previous regime," he said.

Yemen controls much of the eastern Red Sea coast.

"We ask all countries bordering the Red Sea to share with us responsibility for maintaining peace there," Beidh said.

Saleh, congratulated by a West German reporter on Yemeni unity, said: "We have lots of experience in unity now and if the need arises we are ready to send you our experts."

Strong quake shakes Istanbul, no casualties reported

ISTANBUL (R) — A strong earthquake shook the Istanbul area Wednesday but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Anatolian News Agency said the quake measured 6.8 on the open-ended Richter Scale, capable of causing widespread damage. It was felt in Ankara, 450

kilometres to the east.

"This seems to be the weaker wave of a much stronger disaster which might have hit Romania or northern Bulgaria," a source from the ministry of public works in Ankara told Reuters.

A spokesman for the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh said the epicentre was believed to

be in the Soviet Crimea.

Anatolian said the quake was recorded at 13.41 a.m. (1041 GMT).

The observatory was unable to locate the epicentre of the quake but officials told Anatolian it was like to be in Romania.

An Istanbul police official said no casualties or serious dam-

age had been reported.

"We have heard of a few minor cracks in some high-rise buildings in western Istanbul but we are unable to say as yet if there are casualties or damage in the city's outlying areas," the ministry source said.

Istanbul has a population estimated at seven million people.

More dangerous Mideast confronts U.S., Soviet leaders

WASHINGTON (R) — George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev are faced with a more volatile and dangerous Middle East than when they last met six months ago, a situation highlighted by threatening statements from the Arab summit in Baghdad.

"There's been a deterioration in the environment in the Middle East, both between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and the United States," said Martin Indyk, director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Since Bush and Gorbachev met in Malta last December, several things have happened to make the Middle East look a more dangerous place:

— A U.S.-sponsored effort to get Israeli-Palestinian peace talks going has collapsed, along with Israel's national unity government. An Israeli government led by right-wingers seems sure to replace it. Meanwhile, Israeli-U.S. relations are at a low point.

— Iraq's President Saddam Hussein has threatened to use advanced chemical weapons to

retaliate against any Israeli chemical or nuclear attack. At the same time, Iraq has apparently acquired nuclear triggering devices to spur its efforts to develop its own nuclear weapons.

— The Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories has flared again with renewed force following the massacre of seven Arabs by a deranged Israeli last week.

— An influx of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel has roused Arab fears they will bolster Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and

Arab East Jerusalem. Jordan fears their coming will eventually destabilise the Kingdom by pushing Palestinians across the Jordan River.

"Instability in the Middle East, coupled with the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, is a major threat to both superpowers. But there are too many other, more pressing issues at this summit for them to be able to do much about it," said Judith Kipper, an analyst with the Brookings Institution.

The Soviet Jewry issue is the one point which is certain to figure in the Bush-Gorbachev talks.

Gorbachev has promised Arab states he would raise the question. But he cannot slow or stop the flow of emigrants without jeopardising Soviet chances of getting most-favoured-nation trade advantages from the United States.

"This (Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel) is a discussion unlikely to go anywhere at the summit," said Geoffrey Kemp. He said both sides would prob-

ably restate their known positions: Gorbachev pressing the United States to accept more Soviet immigrants as an alternative to Israel, Bush pressing Moscow to institute direct flight for emigrants to Israel.

Neither is likely to get very far. Gorbachev will reply that direct flights are out of the question unless Israel promises not to settle Soviet Jews in the territories. Bush will note that the United States will accept 70,000 Soviet immigrants this year compared with 14,000 in 1988.

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Queen Noor returns from visit to Kuwait

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor returned to Amman Tuesday, following a one-day visit to Kuwait, upon invitation from the Highness Sheikh Latifa Al Sabah, wife of the regent and Prime Minister Sheikh Sa'ad Al Sabah and Sheikh Hussa Al Sabah.

H.E. Sheikh Latifa hosted a lunch banquet in Her Majesty Queen Noor's honour at Qasr Al-Sheba.

During the visit, Her Majesty visited Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah (Museum of Islamic Art), which is part of the Kuwait National Museum. Established in 1983, Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah has a unique range of Islamic art collection which is the most comprehensive in its volume and historical spread in the Muslim World.

It also houses a general reference library with more than 40,000 Islamic art publications and monographs.

The earliest piece in the collection dates back to the 1st-2nd century AD from Al-Hijaz, whilst the later pieces originate from the 12th-13th century AD from Ottoman Turkey and Mughal India.

Her Majesty toured the latest exhibition currently on display at the museum entitled "Masterpieces of Islamic Art" from the Hermitage Museum in the USSR, which displays a wide collection of antiquities such as jewelry, earthenware, fragments of fabrics, ceramics, carpets and seals, as well as bronze and copper objects.

This is the first time ever where the Masterpieces of Islamic Art in the Hermitage Museum travel to the Arab World and in an unprecedented wide-ranged collection on the international level.

Queen receives Irish first lady

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday received at Al Ma'wa Palace Mrs. Maeve Hillary, wife of

the President of the Republic of Ireland, who is currently on a private visit to Jordan.

Percy stresses need for Israel to hold talks with Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — A former United States senator Wednesday expressed the view that there can be no future for Israel without peace and that peace can never be established without the creation of a Palestinian state alongside the state of Israel.

Charles Percy, who is heading a delegation of 50 prominent Americans on a mission for "a just solution in the Middle East," said at a meeting with Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi that Israel's refusal to deal directly with the representatives of the Palestinian people constitutes an obstacle to peace in the Middle East.

"Israel has to deal with those representatives chosen by the Palestinian people and accept Palestinian people's endeavours to create a state of their own, because this is a legitimate and just right," Percy said at the meeting which was attended by several senators.

Percy, who will go to the occupied territories, Thursday before returning to Amman on June 5, told the Jordan Times Tuesday that settlement of Jewish immi-

grants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will only perpetuate tension and push the Middle East towards another Arab-Israeli war.

Lawzi voiced Jordan's appreciation of the American delegation's support for the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel and stressed the need for Israel to pull out its troops from lands it occupied in 1967.

He said that Israel should implement United Nations resolutions, and that the Security Council members should play a key role in the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Lawzi expressed Jordan's regret over a decision taken by the U.S. Congress considering the city of Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel. He also referred to the ongoing Jewish immigration and said that the Jews who have no link whatsoever with Palestine and the Middle East region were being brought to settle on lands from which Arab owners had been evicted.

"The American delegation has an important mission to help bring peace to the region at a

time when the Israelis are escalating tension and stepping up repression against the people of Palestine," Lawzi said.

The delegation, which includes several leading American politicians, among them former presidential candidate John Anderson and prominent Christian, Muslim and Jewish leaders in the United States, Wednesday had a meeting with the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar and House members to review the situation in the Middle East.

Arar spoke about Israel's inhuman practices, its desecration of Christian and Islamic holy places in the occupied territories and about the ongoing Jewish immigration.

Percy said his delegation backs the U.S. president's total opposition to Israel's plans of settling Jewish immigrants on Arab land.

The delegation's tour is organized by the Washington based Pax World Foundation and coordinated by the local chapters of the Middle East Council of Churches based in Cyprus.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday opens a charity bazaar organised by the Union of Voluntary Societies (Petra photo)

28 charities participate in bazaar

AMMAN (J.T.) — Handicrafts by 28 charitable societies in the Amman region were displayed at a charity bazaar which was opened here by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein.

The three-day bazaar displays an assortment of local foods, along with embroideries, artificial flowers, paintings and clothes produced by the charitable societies participating in the annual bazaar.

The bazaar was organised by

the Union of Voluntary Societies (UVS) in the Amman region, the union groups a total of 168 societies specialising in such areas as caring for handicapped people, education, vocational training and health care.

At the opening ceremony the Queen toured parts of the bazaar and inspected various items.

UVS supervises the interests of the societies affiliated to it, coordinates their efforts and upgrades the standards of their services.

The union also acts as a liaison between the societies and the government represented by the Ministry of Social Development. The Queen last year opened the head office of UVS which is funded through subscriptions by member societies.

Attending the opening session with the Queen was Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin and the president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies Abdallah Khatib.

51 people released, 9 still in custody after last week unrest

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Authorities have released 51 people held in connection with last week's violent protests against the May 20 massacre of eight Palestinian workers by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv, and are holding nine others who could possibly be charged for security violations depending on further investigations, according to a senior police source.

"Police are investigating the possibility that some organised groups could have exploited the situation and provoked violence against security forces and attacks on public property," the source told the Jordan Times speaking on condition of anonymity.

"However, by and large, the authorities believe that the protests were an emotional reaction to the massacre and the subsequent Israeli crackdown against Palestinian pro-

testers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza which left at least 10 others killed before the protests erupted in Jordan, he said. However, "that does not justify the gross violation of the law and order situation."

The 51 held and released after questioning were involved in the violence that hit the various refugee camps in and around Amman as well as Irbid and Zarqa, but "are not believed to have played any role in inciting violence or leading the attacks," according to the source. "They have been freed and it is unlikely that they would be called back," the source added.

The nine still being held "appear to be supporters rather than leaders of organised groups which sneaked among the public and exhorted them to violence," according to the source. "Investigations aimed at identifying their leaders are continuing," he said. "The detainees were

arrested from the Begaa, Hitio, Irbid, Zarqa and Wihdat camps, and cases will be referred to court only if concrete evidence is found against them," according to the source. The cases, if and when formally filed, are expected to include charges of inciting violence, vandalism, attacking security forces and preventing security forces from performing their duty.

Some reports have speculated that some dissident Palestinian groups as well as extremist fundamentalists could have been behind the incidents, but the source refused to make any specific comment in reference to any group. Declining to answer a question whether police had any definite leads, he would only say that "everything depends on the outcome of our inquiries, and then justice will take its course."

The source confirmed that among those detained were

suspects in attacks on breweries and a distillery as well as restaurants in the Zarqa area and other targets, including a bank near Russeifa.

Another police source said earlier that "those who can identify the attackers could file separate cases and seek damages from them." It was not clear whether owners of any of the targets in the attacks were moving in this direction.

The senior police source rejected reports of higher casualties than those officially confirmed by the Ministry of Interior. "Only three people — one in Irbid and two in Hitio — were killed and 29 people were wounded — not all of them by gunfire," he stressed.

Following last week's incidents, authorities said that any march or demonstration could be staged only after prior approval has been obtained from the Ministry of Interior. Earlier, a notification would have been sufficient.

Five killed 169 injured, in a week

AMMAN (J.T.) — An old mine went off in an unused lot of land opposite the University of Jordan Wednesday but there were no casualties, according to an official announcement.

It said that the land mine went off while a bulldozer was busy excavating close to the 'La Terrasse International Exhibition Hall'.

In another development, the Public Security Department (PSD) reported that five people were killed and 169 others injured in a series of incidents which occurred in Jordan in the week ending May 26.

The PSD report said that the incidents which included fires and road accidents were 19.27 per cent higher than those that had occurred in the previous week.

Jordan, China to hold cultural week

AMMAN (Petra) — A joint Jordanian-Chinese cultural week due to open in Amman Saturday under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor is expected to promote cultural ties between the two countries, according to China's Ambassador to Jordan Chang De Liang.

Jordanian-Chinese relations in cultural and diplomatic fields were greatly improved since a visit to China by His Majesty King Hussein in the 1980s, the ambassador said at a press conference.

Dr. Hani Al Amad secretary-general of the Ministry of Culture told the conference that in order to bolster bilateral ties Jordan

and China are implementing a 1989-1991 cultural cooperation agreement which entails an exchange of visits by cultural delegations, publications, folk troupes and cooperation in art.

Amad said that bilateral ties continued to witness development and progress. "These ties were bolstered by a visit to Amman by China's minister of culture; during the visit it was agreed that the two countries should organise art exhibitions and cultural weeks to highlight the Chinese and Jordanian cultural heritage," Amad pointed out.

The cultural programme, which will be organised by the Ministry of Culture in coopera-

tion with the Chinese embassy here, will display paintings and other Jordanian and Chinese works of art. Other events include a seminar on Jordanian-Chinese relations and a joint variety show featuring Jordanian and Chinese folklore performances.

Earlier Wednesday, Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki had a meeting with members of the Chinese cultural and artistic delegation which arrived here to take part in the Saturday event.

The minister reviewed with the delegation members ways for promoting Chinese-Jordanian cultural cooperation.

Islamists secure majority in executive committee of UNRWA teachers' union

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — An Islamist bloc led by the Muslim Brotherhood has secured seven of the 11 seats in the executive committee of the Teachers Union of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). A leftist bloc which won the rest appeared to move swiftly to smoothen all differences within the committee, pledging total coordination and cooperation among the panel's members.

The elections to the four-year-term committee were held Tuesday by an 82-member council elected two weeks ago by the 3,400 UNRWA teachers in the Kingdom. UNRWA officials told the Jordan Times, Ahmad Obeidi of the Islamist bloc was elected chairman of the committee and Ali Abdullah Malik of the National bloc was elected vice-chairman from among the 22 candidates vying for the 11 seats. Nine others — six from the Islamist bloc and three from the

National bloc — were elected members, according to an official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Contacted by the Jordan Times, Malik refused to characterise his group as a "bloc" within the committee. The executive panel, he said, "represents all UNRWAs teachers in Jordan and will work together for the common good." "It will be wrong to say that there are two blocs in the committee," he said and refused to name the three others from his group who were elected Tuesday to the panel. But other sources named the other three as Zubair Ibrahim from Balqa, and Adnan Khalil and Mohammad Abu Hefja both from Zarqa.

The winners from the Islamist bloc were named as: Ahmad Al Obeidi, Zubair Ibrahim, Mohammad Mohassen, Fuad Yaquob, Qasem Ayesh, Mamdouh Assad, Fawaz Zureiki and Azzam Abu Khaled (who represents the staff of the UNRWA teachers training col-

lege and the Wadi Seer Vocational Training Centre). At least four of them are believed to be formal members of the Muslim Brotherhood, sources said.

Under a zonal system adopted by UNRWA, which provides educational, health and other services for over 900,000 refugees in the Kingdom, there are distinct areas of operations — Amman south, Amman north, Balqa, Irbid and Zarqa — in addition to the vocational and teachers training centres. The areas have two seats each in the executive committee and the centres have one seat.

Some observers interpreted the strong showing by the Islamists in the UNRWA elections as an extension of the influence of the Muslim Brotherhood, which occupies 21 seats in the Lower House of Parliament. "The union was most of the time led by supporters or sympathisers of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and the rivalry between the PLO and fundamentalists in the occupied terri-

ories appeared to have spilled over to the union this time," commented a seasoned observer.

According to Malik, the priorities of the committee included efforts to seek better working conditions for UNRWA teachers and to ensure that the UNRWA administration adheres to agreements made with the teacher's union. "Some of our objectives could be achieved in the short term, but some others might take time," he said.

Obeidi, head of the Islamist bloc, was not immediately available for comment. Islamists claiming control of the UNRWA teachers' union was the latest in a series of triumphs scored by the fundamentalists, who secured sweeping control of the Zarqa Municipal Council in the first elections for the council in 12 years earlier this month. Observers also predict victory for an Islamist bloc running in elections for a Municipal Council in Russeifa on the northeastern outskirts of Amman.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by five Jordanian artists at Abdul Hameed Shomran Foundation (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Ramda Berouti at Goethe Institute.
- ★ Exhibition displaying traditional Syrian handicraft by Syrian women, and hand-painted textile by Mustafa Fahd at the French Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- ★ French films on art at Alla Art Gallery — 6:30 p.m.
- ★ Feature film entitled "Death of a Salesman" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, with slides, on "Wild Flowers in Jordan" by Ann O'Neill at the YWCA, 3rd Circle — 10:00 a.m.

BALLET

- ★ Ballet show by Jeanne Ballet de France at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

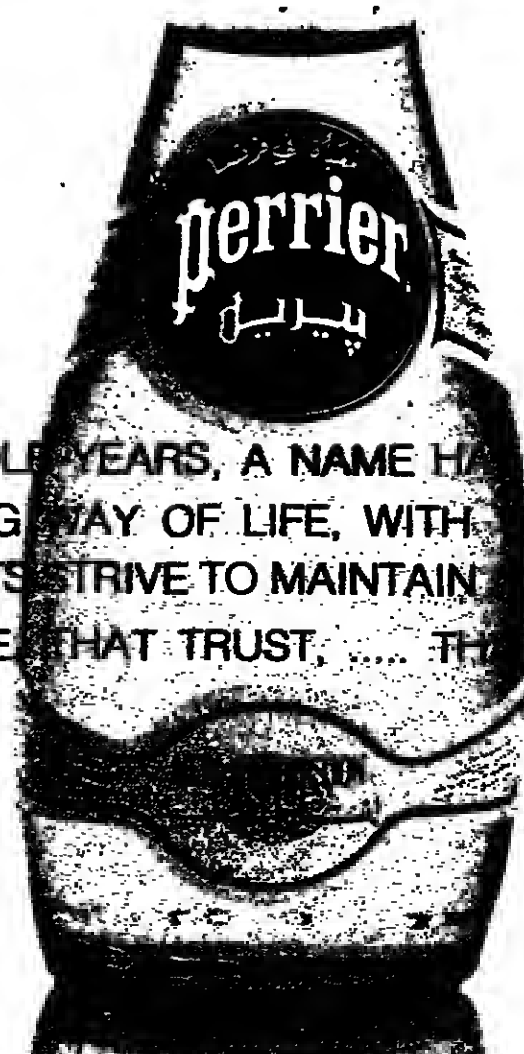
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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
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Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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A success worth the effort

ALL OF HIS great energy and tireless efforts were needed to help close Arab ranks and bring leaders together for the common cause. Yet, he found a short period of time in which to eat and chat with journalists. It was barely enough to discuss everything that was on his mind or taking place at the Baghdad summit during the past two days. But for His Majesty King Hussein, even that brief period was enough to judge that the conference was going well to the point of success, and to explain why. For him, the fact that the Arab leaders managed to meet at this point in time and despite all the odds was in itself an achievement. That their meeting did not break up or fail soon after it started was an achievement. To the King, the proposal that was on the table to regularise Arab meetings and to institutionalise summits was a manifestation of a bigger success that he could see, and to explain why all Arabs should see it this way. And the fact that Arab support for Jordan, which he had sought in earnest, and justifiably so, was forthcoming made his analysis all the more solid, realistic and practical.

The King did not have the time to go on listing all the proposals and the draft agreements being studied and contemplated that would have added to the success of the summit. But those were not to escape anyone's attention easily.

The realism and seriousness that characterised the conference's deliberations, and later resolutions, on crucial issues like Jewish immigration into Palestine, Arab-European and Arab-African dialogue, and relations with the superpowers, among many other issues, have all to be seen as a success for joint Arab action. The choice of Baghdad as venue for the summit, at a time when Iraq has been the target of an unjustified campaign aimed at nipping in the bud the Arab World's technological development and scientific progress was a success. And to go on from there to agree on a joint plan of action to support the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people, as symbolised by the intifada, and to back our brethren's inalienable right to establish their own independent state — that too has to be seen as an important step for the Arab leaders to take at Baghdad.

These were not all the issues that were discussed and agreed on in the Iraqi capital. But facts speak for themselves. Something solid was done there and it can surely be described as success.

True, Syria and Lebanon did not participate, and that was a minus. True also, there were disagreements here or snags there that permeated the conference. But in all it was a successful summit. His Majesty was right on the mark there. The success was his and Jordan's as much as anybody else's.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Arab masses will not forgive Arab countries if they fail in their duty of coming to the help of Jordan which is protecting the Arab depth in the face of Israel's threats, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. In pan-Arab work there is no room for gain or loss, but rather an all-out effort in the face of the common challenge posed to the future of the Arab Nation and its existence, the paper noted. We are facing a common enemy, plotting to launch aggression on Iraq, Jordan and other countries, and one which has been exercising all forms of terrorism and inhuman practices against the Palestinian people, the paper stressed. It said there can be no excuse for any one to shirk responsibility now that the King has placed the facts about the situation before the Arab heads of state collectively, and there can be no pretext for lack of coordination of Arab efforts and joint Arab action in the face of continued Jewish influx in Palestine and the subsequent Israeli threat to the Arabs. The paper said that the Arab Nation has no alternative but to accept the Zionist challenge and deal with this evil and hostile force, and thwart Israel's conspiracies against the future Arab generations.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily notes Wednesday that the Arab countries displayed moderation and wisdom throughout all their previous summits although each of their moves was confronted by an opposite and totally different stand by Israel. Tareq Masarweh says that everytime the Arabs and the PLO opted for moderation and peace; the Israelis, backed by their American allies, resorted to aggression and more atrocities against the Palestinian people. The Americans want the Arabs this time also to show moderation and a tendency towards peace so that Israel can maintain its present policy against them and their Palestinian brothers, says Masarweh. He notes that Washington does not want a tense situation to emerge in the Middle East because it is afraid that it could lead to a halt to Soviet Jewish immigration, and could divert America's attention from its present involvement of creating trouble for Moscow in Armenia and the Baltic states. The writer also notes that a tense situation in our region could force the Americans to come to the aid of their allies, the Israelis, and could display the Arabs as free of all America's influences.

There is no doubt that the Baghdad summit which concluded Wednesday is different in form and content from all previous Arab summits, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. It noted that the Arab masses have been looking to Baghdad to take solid steps, translating solidarity among Arabs into action, simply because the present challenges and dangers are totally different than any time in the past. The paper noted that all the Arab heads of state who delivered speeches, pledged to do all they can to bolster solidarity among Arab countries, and to pave the way for a pan-Arab strategy that can deal with the dangerous situation. King Hussein has placed the facts about the situation before the Arab Nation and President Saddam Hussein urged joint action in the face of the common threats, the paper added.

The 21st century: Will the Arabs fit in?

By Dr. Abdul Rahim Malhas

AN UNUSUAL international interest in the twenty first century is being noticed. This is not totally surprising. There is a general feeling, the coming century is going to be different. Unlike other centuries, the twenty first started unceremoniously long before the end of this century. It was prematurely delivered, not a baby, but an astonishingly mature being. Such a debut, created feelings of unease, and with it a realisation that, for the foreseeable future, we will be facing times that will not only be different, but also difficult.

As it approaches, some of its characteristic features become more noticeable. The twenty first century will exhibit a unique quantitative characteristic. If only by virtue of inheritance, it will be the century of the plenty. There will be plenty of richness, plenty of knowledge, plenty of people, plenty of achievements and plenty of choices. But there will also be plenty of poverty, plenty of ignorance, plenty of starvation, frustration and waste.

Contradictory human achievements, the good and the bad, will exist together, in unprecedented and enormous quantities.

As far as we can judge from this point in time, the twenty first century will pose serious challenges to many of our deep-rooted institutions and establishments. The meaning, purpose and role of such well established concepts as "culture", "motherhood", "defence", "business", "borders", "governing", "war" and "marriage", to mention only some, will be violently shaken, seriously questioned, and may be totally redefined.

For those of us who like to simplify matters by sticking labels, the twenty first century can be called the century of pollution and drugs. It can also be rightly labelled the age of space. Some may correctly name it the era of super computers and genetic sciences. Undoubtedly, all these are true marks of the dawn century. But of all those special features, none can be more unique to the twenty first century

than the pace at which events will move within it.

While events moved at ease during the first half of this century, they raced at high speed through its second half. If this trend continues, and chances are that it will, movement within the twenty first century will probably be measured by the rate of its acceleration, not its speed.

At This envisaged rate of change, probably no experience will last long enough to be measured, let alone assimilated or enjoyed. Events will possibly erupt and vanish long before they mature enough to be fully comprehended by the human brain. It is possible that the rhythm of life will move at such a velocity that the biologic adaptation system will be persistently taxed to the edge of its fatigue. No period of rest will separate two consecutive happenings, and there will probably be no time for reminiscence, and no pause for reconsideration. Everything will undergo some kind of change, except change itself. It is the century of continuous and rapid change that will involve every field of human activity and every aspect of human life.

The perplexity caused by dealing with unusual astronomical quantities, the uncertainty created by the shakeup of trust in the rooted and established, the anxiety created by continuous unpredictability, and the tension involved by relentless and rapid changes in most aspects of human life, will ultimately draw some waves in our sea of tranquility. In addition, the biologic fatigue caused by endless challenge to the human adaptation system by chemicals, radiation and acceleration, the worry and alarm aroused by frequent man-made destruction to his environment, the heavy burden forced on man by the persistent need for renewal and updating, and above all, the lack of breathing intermission for re-consideration and correction, are apt to tip man's balance and push him into the mazes of loneliness, nervousness, and isolation.

To live through the twenty first century, we will have to learn the new rules of life. We will have to accept change, not to resist it. To every new challenge we have to respond with the accuracy and speed of reflexes. In times when compu-

ters will be masters, man cannot but have a computer logic and an appropriately programmed behaviour. An ever-increasing speed for reaching information processing them, understanding them, and reacting to them will be necessary for survival and development. It is not completely illusory to imagine the gradual transformation of man to a "biologic super computer" as he proceeds to build an artificial human-like intelligence, both to serve his need to adapt to the new pace of life.

How to live with and within an ever changing situation, how to comprehend a fact fast enough before it becomes irrelevant, how to build decisions on dynamically changing factors, and how to deal with one thing as being both new and old at the same time are only starters to real future concerns. How to adjust mentally and psychologically to a non-biologic rate of change, how to adapt physically to an antagonistic and destructive environment, how to find time for re-evaluation and courage for correction, and how to get rid of one's loneliness and ner-



The writer is a general surgeon who graduated from the American University of Beirut in 1959. He is a frequent contributor to Arabic dailies on political and social issues.

vousness, will be man's major challenges in the next century.

To give the twenty first century all this special attention is not without purpose, for within its span we, the Arabs, will have to choose, probably once and for all, between living the past or accepting the future.



Romanians look to new government for food and freedom

By Hugh Paim
Reuter

BUCHAREST — In Romania, the prade has gone by.

The first multi-party elections in five decades have left behind a litter of torn posters, a sour taste in the losers' mouths and a government elected by a majority so huge that not even its opponents dare say all its votes were fraudulent.

The National Salvation Front has a mandate for two years, during which the two-chamber parliament must draw up a new constitution and then face the voters again.

Now it's time to deliver. So what must President Ion Iliescu and his government — probably to be led by the personable but inexperienced interim Prime Minister Peter Roman — offer to ensure re-election?

"Food and freedom," replied one Bucharest resident with stark simplicity. The five months since the revolution against Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu have restored important freedoms.

Romanians may now talk to foreigners, travel abroad provided they can obtain an invitation or enough currency, and stage demonstrations — a right which Bucharest's highly-publicised "golans" (vagabonds) have exercised day and night in the capital's main thoroughfare for over a month.

But Iliescu and many government leaders are former Communists, and suspicions remain. Large numbers of Ceausescu's nomenclature (elite) are still in place. So are many members of his secret police, formally abolished.

"I want Iliescu to make me feel like a free person — I want to breathe freedom in the atmosphere," said one Romanian. "Things have improved, but I don't feel safe yet. There is still the fear."

For Romania, freedom and food may be intimately connected.

The U.S. most-favoured-nation status, a vital trade benefit, is granted only to countries with a good human rights record. Genuine democracy is equally the key to foreign loans and European Community cooperation.

Roman's interim government increased hard currency imports by 75 per cent in the first four months of its rule, most of it in food and consumer goods, and budgeted \$900 million for such

purchases in the first half of 1990. Shoppers report a slight shortening of queues, a little more quantity and choice. But the shops are still among the emptiest in Europe. There is still a long way to go.

Ceausescu, by starving his people, wiped out Romania's overseas debt. Foreign trading partners owe Romania some \$2.5 million, Economy Minister Constantin Caloiaru reckons.

But it will need to recover all that money in a single year to plug a looming trade gap and get the economy going, or resort to new foreign borrowings.

Disregarding dwindling trade with comecoon countries, roughly in balance last year, government projections indicate that exports to convertible currency partners this year may be down to around \$2.5 billion, while imports form them could soar to \$5 or \$6 billion.

An old East European workers' joke — "the government pretends to pay us, and we pretend to work" — is nowhere more true than in Romania, where output in agriculture, oil, heavy industry, chemicals and textiles all fell in Ceausescu's last year.

"For the workers and peasants who voted for the front it is simple," said one analyst. "First the food, then the work."

Average pay in this once-prosperous country is about \$150 a month, while peasants take home scarcely \$100. Many Romanians view Roman's target of raising living standards to those of Austria in seven to eight years as optimistic.

But progress must come sooner than that. "They have six months," said one Romanian, sitting in Bucharest's May sunshine. "By the winter there must be food and heat and light, or people will say they are not different from Ceausescu."

More than that, if Romanians are going to work, they want to see moves against the corruption that makes their lives a series of petty bribes. And things to make their labour worthwhile — the right to keep the profits from small businesses or to acquire cars easily, for instance.

"Two years," suggested one Romanian as the minimum for visible progress towards these goals.

And that, as it happens, is just the time the government has.

What role for the military in a changing world?

By Flora Lewis

BUENOS AIRES — One way or another, the role and structure of the military are up for argument in countries around the world as the prospect of war recedes. Argentina is no exception, although its military issues are essentially of the Third World variety.

Still, political change and the impulse to democracy have affected ideas of security here just as they have in the north. A decade ago, the possibility of war with neighbours seemed real. There was the Beagle Channel dispute with Chile, a serious arms race with Brazil that included an attempt for atomic weapons, and other local disputes, not to speak of the disastrous Falklands/Malvinas adventure.

Now nobody imagines a regional war, and a global strategic rationale has faded away with the Cold War. President Carlos Saul Menem speaks of a "process of integration with neighbours." But he wants to "modernise" Argentina's arsenal, so I asked him what the function of the armed forces is now.

The question apparently surprised him. He said: "The role of the military is the same as in any other country. When it disappears in the United States, France and so on, it will disappear here, too." He argues that the military must have up-to-date

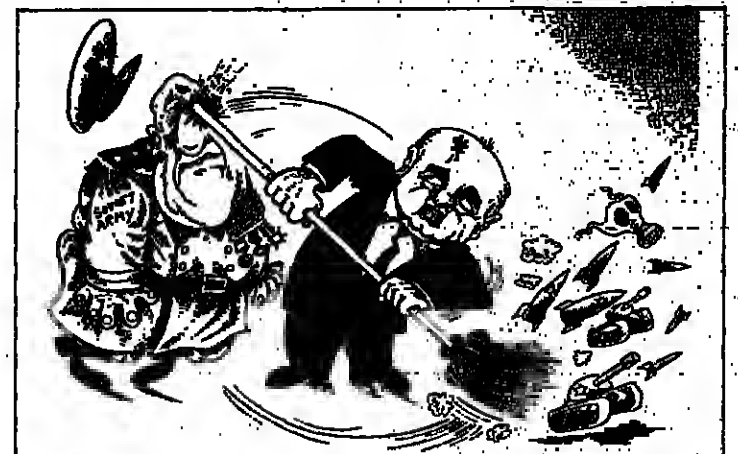
weapons for the safety of the men in uniform. "The armed forces are an aspect of sovereignty."

That was not quite the point. Even critical Argentines agree with him that the military here is now subordinated to civilian government. Nobody fears another coup in current circumstances, although the opposition says the key reason is direct participation in government of the financial powers that stimulated coups in the past to protect their interests.

In any case, losing a war cost the military the justification that it alone could protect the country's interest. Losing power after a brutal military dictatorship had terrorised the country but achieved nothing else cost it the prestige and respect it cherished. Now it isn't sure of its purpose.

There are a number of traditional functions. Protecting a country against threats short of war remains a valid military role, although it suggests a very different shape of force when neighbours are reliably friendly.

Maintaining internal order has been a customary use of the military in undemocratic countries, but it makes the military the enemy of democracy, and usually assures that it will grow corrupt. Argentines insist that they have had more than enough of that, although Mr. Menem is making the legal basis for domestic intervention by the armed forces



unclear.

In many Third World countries, especially in Latin America, the military has long served as a gateway for social mobility otherwise slammed shut by a dominating oligarchy. Every society needs some kind of ladder for the able, and providing it outside of the profession of arms is obviously an essential factor of development.

Argentina relied less on the military for this service in the past than did others, but still it mattered. Argentina relied more than many on the military as political arbiter, imposing power decision when groups that considered themselves the natural custodians of power were at odds. That, too, is a role that inevitably undermines democracy.

And finally, a purpose of military forces almost everywhere, regardless of security needs, is to maintain the existence of the military. It is a corporative body that develops its own support systems and like others, only more so, finds it hard to reflect on the whys of its inherent desire to survive.

But if the military-industrial complex achieves weight beyond

reason in such countries as the United States and France, it tends to provoke counterforces arising from competitive claims on the economy. This has also become true in the Soviet Union. The competition is weakened in countries without solidly based civilian government. The military's claims need determined review.

Ironically, arms reduction in the East-West context risks aggravating military clout in the Third World. There will be a temptation to sell off rather than destroy weapons, and keep arms suppliers' in business despite shrinking domestic markets. Constraints on this loophole must be included in East-West arms agreements.

More important, though, is to study the rationale of arms in the changing world. I am not against defence. Security is a basic need. But it means need review. Countries like Argentina already show the tremendous impact of shifting attitudes. The role of the military cannot be left out of plans for advancing democracy if a sturdier basis for peace with freedom is to be achieved — The New York Times.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Jordan Times WEEKENDER

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National Gallery realises all goals at the end of 1st decade

"When time passes and we are no more, nothing remains to tell of our culture but architecture and the arts" — Anonymous.

By Nelly Lama

Special to the Jordan Times

IN 1979, The Royal Society of Fine Arts, a cultural, non-governmental and non-profit organisation, was established in Amman. Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali was elected president, Dr. M. Samra, vice-president and a Board of Trustees was established. In February 1979, they founded a National Gallery of Fine Arts to encourage Jordanian artists as well as artists from other Arab and Islamic countries to exhibit. It started as an idea, a suggestion of Princess Wijdan rather than a previously acquired collection that needed a home.

Funded by donations and grants by individuals and institutions in Jordan, the Arab World and abroad, 70 works of art were acquired. The National Gallery of Fine Arts was officially inaugurated by His Majesty King Hussein on the Feb. 2, 1980.

Modest was the beginning but great were the ambitions and aims.

The Royal Society of Fine Arts wanted to offer patronage to contemporary artists in Jordan, the Arab World and Third World countries. Now, ten years later, they have a long list of exhibitions and over a thousand works of art in their permanent collection to vouch for a great achieve-

ment in the direction. This includes paintings in different media, graphics, ceramics and sculptures.

The Royal Society of Fine Arts hoped to exchange exhibitions with other museums and cultural organisations. We can now trace a very rich interaction where 57 exhibitions dealt with foreign sources.

The Victoria and Albert Museum, London, offered in 1987, works from Orientalist collections in Britain including the Searight Collection, to set up the exhibition "On the Banks of the Jordan-British Nineteenth Century Painters." Some Jordanian collectors participated in the exhibition as well. The works displayed were painted by Turner, Dugmore, Ellis, Lear, Hunt and of course David Roberts. They showed the fever of Orientalism that took over Europe, England in particular, in the first days of industrialisation when steamships and railway networks allowed a great number of travellers to come over to the Middle East and paint. It fitted with the great revival of interest in Orientalist art that was noted among Jordanians and other Arabs in the 1980s.

Another exhibition displayed works by "Fourteen British sculptors" in the British Council collection, London Works by Henry Moore, Lynn Chadwick and Kenneth

Armitage etc. Armitage personally accompanied the works.

The George Pompidou Centre in Paris contributed the exhibition "Art Contemporain en France 1960-1980" held in March 1981. It included abstract and figurative artists who faced pictorial problems of representation of object and space, of light and colour of time and movement. Each gave a different solution ending of course with a poetic ensemble of works by Esteve, Soulages, Viera da Silva, Zao Wou Ki and others. Photographs, and decorative arts such as contemporary designs of "Porcelaines de Sevres" and tapestries from the "Manufactures Nationales de Tapis et Tapisseries" were also displayed.

The Harvard Semitic Museum offered and exhibition of 19th century photography.

The Geneva Museum of History and Art contributed a precious collection of "Islamic Calligraphy - Sacred and Secular Writings" with sponsorship by Treasures of Islam, Geneva and the World of Islam Festival Trust, London. This exhibition covered calligraphy on papyrus, fabrics, vellum, paper, pottery mosaic panels, metal filigree, marble reliefs and a brass seal. They covered the whole territory of the Islamic World showing a number of Koran illuminations and miniatures.

Graphic Works of German Impressionist painters were displayed in 1989.

A great exhibition "The Architecture of Mamluk Jerusalem" included drawings, maps and architectural plans of Mamluk structures from the 15th century on, as well as some artifacts, showing the magnificence of design and the skill of the craftsmen of the time. This was arranged in cooperation with the British School of Archaeology.

An exhibition of photographs commemorating the 400 years of "the Architect Sinan" was also held in Amman.

Other exhibitions were contributions of Turkish museums, the Museum of Modern Art in Cairo, Iraq, Tunis and Senegal. Contemporary Orientalist painter Nicholas Egon also exhibited his Jordanian landscapes.

Ninety works by twenty Arab artists were displayed at the 12th exhibition of the Friends of Fine Arts in the Arabian Gulf.

One-man shows of Arab artists included paintings by Faik Hassan, Rafa Nasiri, Juliana Seraphim, Paul Guiragossian, Kamal Boullata, Laila Shawa and Hachimi Azza (mezzotint graphics).

A large number of Jordanian artists joined group exhibitions in the gallery and at the annual Jerash Festival. Some artists managed a one man show: Princess Wijdan offered a selection of her oil paintings, Samer Tabbaa sculptures, and Mahmoud Tahar ceramics. Individual painting exhibitions were held by Suheil Bicharat, Ahmad Nawash, Munira Nuseibeh, Ali Jabri, Aziz Ammoura, Mahmoud Sadiq, Suha Shuman, Samia Zaru and Nabil Shehadeh.

From its own permanent collection, the Royal Society of Fine Arts has sent major exhibitions abroad to France as the contemporary section of "La Voie Royale", to Turkey (Ankara State Museum), to Poland (Warsaw, Krakow and Poznan) and to the Cairo Biennale, 1986 etc.

The greatest among these exhibitions was "Contemporary Art from the Islamic World." A vast exhibition which was held at the Barbican.

Concourse Gallery, London, in cooperation with the Islamic Arts Foundation, it included a selection of 231 works from 24 different Arab and Islamic countries.

The Royal Society has also



HRH Princess Wijdan Ali

organised seminars, conferences and symposiums to the public. These included "the 3rd International Seminar on Problems of Art Education in Islamic Countries" organised with the Islamic Arts Foundation, London, Seminars and workshops on "Museums and Conservation" offered by the Metropolitan Museum and the Freer Gallery, Washington DC.

Lectures covered the "Life of Sultan Suleiman" through illustrated manuscripts, the "Italian Renaissance", etc. Arab and Jordanian artists, professors, curators and critics delivered lectures on such topics as "Petra as an Open Museum" (by Dr. Fawzi Zayadin), the "Artist and Technology" (by Hafiz Kassis), "Museum Environments" (by Ali Jabri), "Highlights on Criticism" (by Mazen Asfour), "Graphic Art Today" (by Hachimi Azza), all presented at the National Gallery.

Another aim of the Royal Society was the publication and translation of books and research papers in different branches of Islamic and Arab Culture. A book by Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan dealing with the Umayyads, Abbasids and Andalusians was the first book published in a series on "Orientation to the Arts". Other books, catalogues and brochures were published in different parts of the world, pertaining to the exhibitions held in the premises of the National Gallery.

They also aimed at founding a reference library on Islamic and International art and architecture. Such a library exists today. The collection of precious books is slowly growing. But the use of this library is rather limited, awaiting more funds and larger space to house it. It is however, most promising.

In 1984, a new wing was added to the National Gallery, allowing space for visiting exhibitions, leaving the lower floor for the permanent collection which includes over a thousand works by about 200 Jordanian as well as Arab and Muslim artists from the Maghreb in the West to Brunei in the East. It also houses a small collection of paintings by Orientalists such as Eugene Delacroix and David Roberts.

At the close of its first decade, the Royal Society of Fine Arts has substantially brought to life every goal it aimed at.

To crown its efforts, His Majesty King Hussein offered the society number of awards including a land (offered by the Municipality of Amman) on which to build a new museum. Awards were also offered to individuals who have contributed to the development of the aims of the Royal Society of Fine Arts.

Let us wish the best of luck to the society and join hands in our efforts to back them financially, academically and spiritually to award our country and its people pride and joy in their National Gallery of Fine Arts.

Diary

A WELL-KNOWN journalist in Al Rai Arabic daily is approaching several intellectuals, political activists and fellow journalists with a call for boycott of American goods. He is asking everyone who feels strongly about this issue to sign a statement. Several enthusiasts were quick to pledge their support for the boycott and promised that their signatories will adorn the statement. However, one of those enthusiasts had second thoughts about the whole issue when he started to count the things he will have to do when he starts implementing the boycott. The heavy smoker of Marlboro cigarettes started contemplating the taste of Jordanian produced cigarettes and his strong anti-U.S. feelings started to waver. "I don't know what to do, I cannot have my American coffee without cigarettes and I am addicted to the stuff," he said. I guess he hasn't yet considered what he will do about the "American" coffee.

DURING last week's press conference by visiting Pakistani President Benazir Bhutto, two key questions came from a very Asian-looking journalist who is living in Jordan for the past 12 years. As soon as he asked the first question, Prime Minister Mudar Badran turned to Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin and wanted to know: "Is he one of them?" (meaning whether the questioner was one of the journalists accompanying Mrs. Bhutto, with the possible implication that the question could have been "planted.") apparently, the information minister reassured the prime minister it could not have been the case, simply because the questioner was from the other side of Kashmir. The clinch was: He works for the Jordan Times as well as represents one of the two largest news agencies in India. We will never find out whether he felt indignant over being mistaken as "one of them."

THE ONLY irritant in the otherwise close coordination between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) at the Baghdad summit came when Jordan was disturbed by a proposal tabled by the PLO to renew the levying of "liberation tax" from all Palestinians living outside the occupied Arab territories. Obviously, Jordan was not exactly very happy when it seemed that one of the prime audience for the tax could be Jordanians of Palestinian origin or the Palestinian refugees living in the Kingdom at a time when economic hardships are very real in the country. However, the PLO moved swiftly to diffuse the row by affirming that the new tax will not be applicable to anyone in Jordan and the main target was those Palestinians living in the Gulf states. The question that remained apparently unanswered is: Will West Bankers holding Jordanian passports and working in the Gulf be asked to pay the tax?

DURING his address to the emergency Arab summit meeting in Baghdad this week, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat gave a strong speech which many felt exposed the real wounds of the Palestinians and highlighted the lack of proper Arab support for the intifada. The PLO leader kept talking about the uphill struggle facing the Palestinian cause, whether in the Arab World, in Europe, the United States or the Soviet Union. While many enjoyed the chance to hear the speeches of the Arab leaders on the air from Baghdad, Abu Ammar managed to keep back something that everyone became interested in knowing. "You should have seen what they did to me in Geneva I will tell you all about it in the closed session," Arafat said. Since that statement, several Jordanians have forgotten the whole speech by Arafat and are asking what exactly did "they" do to Abu Ammar? And who are "they." This is one of the situations which journalists ponder upon and their recurring dream comes back to them. "I wish I was a fly on the wall of the closed session, so I could hear everything that is said," is the dream of almost every journalist. But then, that is what "scoops" are made of. In this case though, no-one knows exactly what the Arafat "scoop" was. The only way for us in Amman is to await our colleagues to get back here and pick on their brains to figure out what was said to Abu Ammar in Geneva. Perhaps, at least for some Jordanian journalists, it is more important than the summit resolutions.

AFTER finding only four members of his bloc winning in the race for the 11 chairs in the executive committee of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) Teacher's Union, the leader of the group swiftly sought to project the image of a strong, united committee which will work towards improving the lot of the people it represents. There are no two blocs in the panel, he stressed, "we are all dedicated to the common goal of serving the UNRWA teachers." Obviously, there is more to it than meets the eye, what with the seepage of inter-Palestinian politics. In any case, the leader of the leftist bloc even refused to give his group's name or identify the three others who won along with him. It took the Jordan Times to call sources in the other group to find out what the bloc's actual name was and who were its elected members. Another manifestation of democracy, isn't it?



Suhel Bicharat of the National Gallery briefs students from the American School in Amman.

Skeletons, masks main themes of Ensor retrospective in Paris

By Marilyn August
The Associated Press

PARIS — James Ensor, a Belgian expressionist with an affinity for skeletons and a style that helped pave the way for surrealism, is enjoying new popularity in a major retrospective of his paintings. Showing at the Petit Palais through July 22 are more than 200 works tracing the evolution of a multi-faceted career that spanned six decades and that had been largely ignored in France, where only two Ensor paintings are displayed in major museums.

According to Lydia M.A. Schoonbaert, head curator at the Royal Beaux-Arts Museum in Antwerp, Belgium, the exhibition may also be one of the last tributes of its kind because of the fragility of En-

sor's canvases.

Like many contemporaries in France who came of age in the second half of the 19th century, Ensor adopted Impressionist techniques to depict his subjects in a haze of colour spread thickly across the canvas.

But if Monet and Renoir excelled with outdoor scenes, Ensor was an astute observer of interiors — stifling bourgeois drawing rooms and bedrooms with heavy, dark furniture and thick drapery.

He also was fascinated with the macabre workings of the human imagination and the influence of death. Many paintings reveal his obsession with scatological themes and torture.

Masks and skeletons are Ensor's most widely used symbols. When combined

with his penchant for bright, bold colours, the effect is carnival-like.

In the 1891 work *Squelette*

dangling above them while a host of distorted, witch-like figures look on.

In *Les Fumeurs Drolatiques*

If the Monet and Renoir excelled with outdoor scenes, Ensor was an astute observer of interiors — stifling bourgeois drawing rooms and bedrooms with heavy, dark furniture and thick drapery.

se Disputant en Pendu, (Skeletons Arguing Over a Hanged Man), two skeletons in fancy garb toting parasols duel over a hanged corpse,

(the Hilarious Smokers), Ensor portrays his friend August Boogaerts smoking a cigarette, smiling at the spectator outside the painting

while a butler serves up a cigar-smoking skull on a plate.

Squelette Peintre (Skeleton Painter), is a satirical rendition of a common 19th century theme — the artist in his studio. The artist here is working in a studio cluttered with half-finished compositions and wide-eyed skulls. The artist himself has only a skull for a head and paints with a worn-out brush on an easel topped by another skull. At his feet lies yet another one, gripping a feather duster between its teeth.

Also on show are numerous drawings and preparatory sketches for the *Entry of Christ into Brussels* (1888), Ensor's most famous masterpiece, not on show because it is considered too fragile to

travel from its home at the John Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, California.

Ensor was born in Ostende, Belgium, in 1860, the son of a British-born shopkeeper who dealt in masks, shells and assorted exotic objects that would find their way into his work.

He studied painting at the Academie Des Beaux Arts in Brussels, but chose to return to Ostende, where he lived until his death in 1949. Ensor lived a strange, reclusive existence, and never married the servant woman with whom he lived for many years.

Though his early work is reminiscent of the *joie de vivre* of the Impressionists, a climate of anxiety and oppression soon settles in, haunting even the simplest of his still lives.

Thoughts for this week

Perfection is attained by slow degrees. It requires the hand of time

— Voltaire, French Writer (1694-1778).

Opinions cannot survive if one has no chance to fight for them

— Thomas Mann, German Writer (1875-1955).

All religions must be tolerated, for every man must get to heaven in his own way

— Prussia's King Frederick the Great (1712-1786).

When a stupid man is doing something he is ashamed of, he always declares that it is his duty

— George Bernard Shaw, Irish-born Playwright (1856-1950).

Woe unto them that are tired of everything, for everything will certainly be tired of them

— G.K. Chesterton, English writer (1874-1936).

Norman Murrad

East Germany's Kurt Masur to head New York Philharmonic

By George-Friedrich Kühn

WHEN asked at the turn of the year 1989/90 if he should not hold himself in readiness for the office of president in a "renewed" East Germany, Kurt Masur replied he was a "happy person". The profession of orchestral conductor was one of the "finest" one could wish for at the present time. And he wanted to go on making music.

He "didn't want to be disturbed" in his pursuit of "music as the humanist message". Nothing made him happier, he said, than to see "people now coming with shining eyes" in the Gewandhaus.

From the 1992/93 season onwards, Kurt Masur will become the music director of the New York Philharmonic, the 150-year-old orchestra and the richest in tradition on the American continent. The list of principal conductors, whose ranks Masur will now be joining, is impressive. It includes Gustav Mahler, Wilhelm Mengelberg, Arturo Toscanini, Sir John Barbirolli, Dimitri Mitropoulos, Leonard Bernstein, Pierre Boulez and last not least - Zubin Mehta.

Other names such as Bruno Walter and Wilhelm Furtwängler feature among Masur's "predecessors in office" in Leipzig.

Masur has been music director of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra since 1970. Through his efforts, it regained its international reputation. Initially, the orchestra did not welcome Masur with open arms.

"They, of course, would have preferred a Herbert von Karajan at their head, a star who would have guaranteed them universal prestige," says Masur in retrospect. "I was nothing more than a talented person for them." The feeling that "it couldn't have been better as far as mutual development is concerned" - as Masur, born in Brieg, Silesia, in 1927, cocedes - stems from the dispensation of fate in recent years only.

The most important stage along this path was the dedication of the New Gewandhaus in 1981. The fact that

the building was planned, financed and erected is the result of Masur's pertinacity.

Originally intended to study engineering, he concerned himself down to the last detail with the building's progress; the auditorium, which seats 1,500 persons, is regarded as one of the most subtly acoustical in Europe.

On completing his studies in Leipzig, Masur's musical career began with posts of theatre conductor or assistant conductor in Halle, Erfurt, Leipzig and Dresden, and then his first senior post in Schwerin. In 1960, he was appointed to the Civic Opera, Berlin, where he worked alongside Walter Felsenstein: in 1967, Masur succeeded Heinz Bongartz, his former teacher, as director of the Dresden Philharmonie - a post he retained until 1972.

There was an intervening period when "no use" could be found for him in East Germany. He has always been known for his self-possession and pertinacity. He was invited as guest conductor to concerts in Salzburg, Venice, the Hague, Stockholm - and, in particular, to America.

Columbia Artists put him under contract. For five years he was music director in Dallas, too. He gave numerous concerts with the orchestras from New York and San Francisco. He was the first conductor from East Germany to give a concert with the Berlin Philharmonie.

Like scarcely another, Masur embodies the ideal of the German "Kapellmeister" (conductor) - a tradition which seemed to have ended with Richard Strauss. Sound craftsmanship and scepticism towards medium-oriented virtuosity are their credo.

The role which fell to Masur as the result of his commitment to the peaceful revolution of Nov. 9 1989, was not one he had sought. He had always taken a special pride in his somewhat old-fashioned-sounding title of "Gewandhaus-Kapellmeister zu Leipzig".

Nevertheless, he by no means regards himself as a mere custodian of the Classical



Kurt Masur, who already boasts of experience of international guest performances, has undoubtedly achieved the pinnacle of his career so far

and Romantic traditions. He has always had an open ear for contemporary music in East Germany, particularly that of his friend, Siegfried Matthies. Masur and Matthies have known each other ever since their days together at the Civic Opera in Berlin.

Masur also revived the tradition, practised ever since Arthur Nikisch's time, of arranging concert series in a cyclical pattern. Beethoven / Shostakovich, Mendelssohn / Schumann, Bruckner, Tchaikovsky, Dvorak and Strauss.

In New York, Masur will have the opportunity of showing how far this concept will bear fruit nowadays.

The fact cannot be entirely overlooked, however, that, with Masur, a charismatic and publicity-laden personality has been chosen rather than a musician who has made a name for himself by his pro-

vocative interpretations.

After all, the contract with Claudio Abbado had almost been signed and sealed. When this fell through because of Abbado's appointment as principal conductor of the Berlin Philharmonie, the New Yorkers changed their original plan of appointing Masur as an equal member of a trioka together with Leonard Bernstein and Colin Davies; now Masur is to assume sole responsibility for the orchestra with an 18-week presence. In addition, Bernstein and Davies will associate themselves more closely with the New York Philharmonic.

this notwithstanding, Masur will not have to break his promise to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Leipzig Orchestra in his role as music director: he intends to remain faithful to Leipzig until the 1993/94 season - In Press.

Frankfurt seeks to attract art, artists

By Ariane Beygang

FRANKFURT-AM-MAIN is anxious to become a world city. Long-known beyond national frontiers as an international banking metropolis, the city fathers have been making intensive efforts in recent years to attract art and artists to the city. One museum after the other has been built, galleries recommended to establish themselves there.

Now there is "an art fair of international standing," said Mayor Volker Hauff at the opening ceremony of "ART-Frankfurt."

Unlike the firmly established art fairs in the cities of Cologne or Basle, this event was so heavily subsidized (DM 3.8 million this year) by public funds that its success was almost a foregone conclusion. On this occasion, 200 galleries from 17 different countries were represented. They had an exhibition area of over 10,000 square metres at their disposal. The art fair has become a permanent institution even though 5,000 visitors fewer than 1989 came this year. It will continue to open its doors in the coming years.

The original idea was for mainly new galleries to present the works of young artists. This year, however, there was no suggestion of a new trend, not even a willingness on the part of the gallery owners to highlight a new style. Instead, many internationally well-known exhibitors and their artists were to be seen: Brachot, from Brussels, for instance, Amelio (Naples), Buchmann (Basle) and Turske & Turske (Zürich).

This, of course, guaranteed a high standard - but little in the way of a surprise. There were hardly any exhibitors from Eastern Europe. Only a gallery from Yugoslavia presented the East European countries.

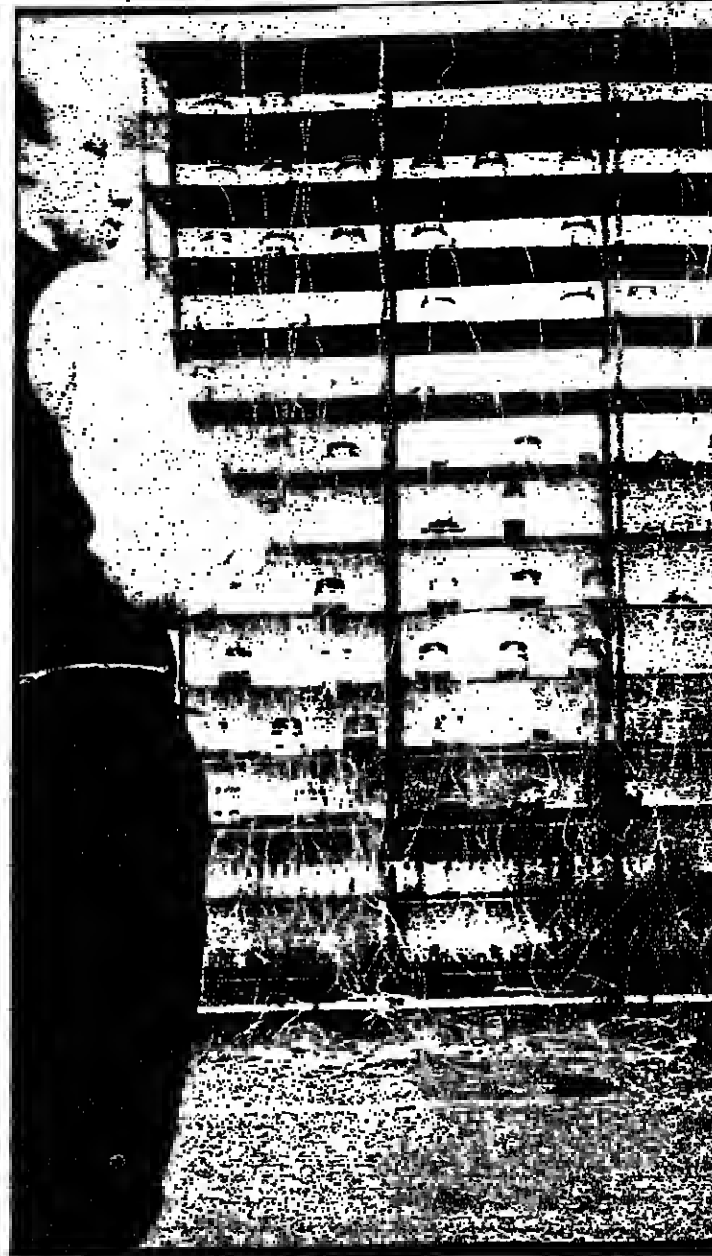
Despite all the political

changes, there was one sole exhibitor from East Germany: the private gallery Eigen and Art from Leipzig, with an attractive display. The new, authentic art of Rainer Görs and Peter Dittmer, was intended to provoke dispute - with dirt and rusty nails, accompanied by acoustic cacophony. Their works - Frankfurter Altar and Rauschen im Frankfurter Altar - are highly reminiscent of Beuys: their neo-style was accepted by the public and discussed in a lively fashion - as a departure from Social Realism.

There were also exhibits by the doyens themselves, such as at the stands of T. Haderik, the Stuttgart gallery owner, and his Munich-based colleague Klüser. The latter displayed large-scale canvases by Andy Warhol at the fair - inter alia.

The Classical Modern School, particularly German Expressionism, was represented by Neumann from Düsseldorf; the Finnish gallery, Mikkola-Rislakki, showed pictures by Marika Mäkelä, which was already displayed in Basle. Tonelli, from Rome, even presented visitors a painting by Italian doyen Renato Guttuso at the fair.

Echoes of the 1950s and 1960s were often evident. The Hennemann Gallery, Bonn, for example, gave visitors the opportunity to compare a picture completed by K.O. Götz in 1953 with one of a more recent vintage by the same artist. Even so, the fair drew attention to current happenings. Frenchman Raynaud showed slides of famous paintings, packed in a suitcase. This was his way of protesting the constant change of location of famous works through auctions - which have now become a normal occurrence - and the resultant commercialisation of art.



East German artist Rainer Görs, Dresden, standing in front of his work entitled 'Frankfurter Altar'

Works of art to help sick persons was the object of a benefit-project by the Association of German AIDS Foundations. Several days long, visitors were able to behold works of art selected by Jan Hoet, director of Ghent Museum and artistic head of documenta 9.

The works were subsequently auctioned by Sotheby's. The organisers of

the Frankfurt art fair couldn't have found a better way to draw attention to the fact that art is not just commerce, but that it is, first and foremost, part of social life - a social life which artists help shape, on the one hand, and in which they actively take part, on the other. Thus "ART-Frankfurt" was a success despite many a critical remark - In Press.

New Soviet film breaks glasnost's last taboos

By Carey Goldberg
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The film *This Is No Way to Live* opens with criminals who rape and murder without mercy or regret. Then it makes the case that the Communist Party has been doing the same thing to the Soviet people for 72 years.

The new documentary by Stanislav Govorukhin, a sensation before it has even opened at Moscow's cinemas, breaks most of the last taboos left in the glasnost era.

Govorukhin takes all the tragedies of Communist rule, all the humiliation of daily Soviet life, and all his personal indignation at the fate of his country, and rolls them into an indictment so powerful that it would seem authorities had no choice but to ban the film.

But the authorities have changed. The Foreign Ministry staged a screening, Moscow City Council deputies have pledged to bring the movie into the capital's cinemas, and Govorukhin said that President Mikhail Gorbachev himself proclaimed it "wonderful" after a private viewing.

"For the life of me, I can't understand how Gorbachev could like it," he said, sounding distressed.

This Is No Way to Live begins with graphic scenes of rape and murder in a style

familiar to viewers of Leningrad TV's "600 Seconds," a daily programme that frequently shows close-ups of burned or bloodied corpses and other grisly crime scenes.

Then it moves into part 2: Criminals in Power.

Beginning with the 1918 murder of Tsar Nicholas II and other members of the royal Romanov family, it presents viewers with one Bolshevik crime against the people after another: The mass slaughter of the "bourgeoisie" under Lenin; the artificially created famines; the tens of millions of deaths and imprisonments under Stalin; the destruction of churches and liquidation of the priesthood; the distortion of people's consciousness with ideological propaganda; and the impoverishment of the vast, rich country through idiotic mismanagement.

The scenes shift next to the "disgusting humiliation" of current everyday Soviet life, with its lines, shortages, poverty and moral bankruptcy, and the pitiful crooked people formed under such conditions and "70 years of the wrong genetic policy."

"The crimes of Hitler's regime cannot begin to measure up to all this in scale and cruelty, especially if you consider that it was done against one's own people," Govorukhin says in the film's narration.

Against footage of the

post-World War II Nuremberg trials of Nazi leaders, he raises the prospect of a similar national trial of Communists, noting that it is the organisers of a crime who should bear the brunt of the punishment.

The Moscow News weekly predicted Thursday that Govorukhin would be accused of "malice, mockery and painting everything black" by "the very people whom he proposes for a national trial."

Judging by two preliminary screenings and commentaries beginning to appear in the Soviet press, however, it is mainly Govorukhin's unrelieved gloom, not his political views, that upsets audiences.

One viewer at the Foreign Ministry showing remarked that "we all already know we can't live this way. What we need to know is how we should live."

Govorukhin, a tall, balding man with a deep voice and dark bags under his eyes, offered no apologies for his downbeat views at question-and-answer sessions after the screenings.

"Personally, I'm a pessimist," he said. "I have no basis to think everything will get better quickly. There's no one in this whole country except absolute idiots who doesn't think tomorrow will be worse. And when people have no hope, and God has been taken away from them, what can you expect?" Govorukhin, who is well-

known as a journalist and director of highly commercial films, said he made *This Is No Way to Live* mainly as a "letter to the Supreme Soviet" legislature. He wants wide distribution for the film, but he was most concerned that it be seen and understood by the country's leaders.

Soviet lawmakers already have had several screenings, and chances are most will get around to seeing the film as its fame grows. Two of Moscow's biggest cinemas have also committed themselves to showing it whether the government tries to censor it or not.

Members of the Russian Congress saw the film earlier this week, and its influence is already felt on the floor.

A deputy from the Russian town of Saratov quoted Govorukhin from the podium recently, saying "if a country is this rich and the people are this poor, that's a crime." Another deputy noted that the film "threw in our face the horrible but honest truth. We can understand it differently but we all agree: This is now way to live."

Govorukhin said legislators told him the documentary had made conservative deputies more conservative and radicals more radical, but in all it managed to move the centre slightly toward more reformist views. "If that's so, then it has played its role," he said.

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JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 31

8:30 Bill Cosby Show

Theo takes acting lessons. He is told acting is instinct and he should go for it. He likes that but he finds the price too high.

9:10 NBA Basketball

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

One More Train to Rob

A train robber is out of jail only to find his other robber friend and his girl are happily married. So he plans another robbery with them and gets even.

Friday, June 1

8:30 Didi's Comedy Show

Didi is about to get married in church. He discovers he forgot the wedding rings locked inside the car. Didi tries very hard to no avail — too late his bride to be already gives birth to a child.

9:10 Beauty and the Beast

In the Forest of the Night

Vincent takes his cage and fury out to the streets on drug traffickers who are run by his biggest enemy.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Quincy

Matter of Principle

Quincy's assistant invents a new method of identifying criminals but gets scuffed at and Quincy sides with him and defends his right to speak his piece.

Saturday, May 2

8:30 Surgical Spirit

Don't Bother Thomas

When Thomas, Sabatini's



Beauty and the Beast Friday at 9:10

registrar, makes a mistake in the operating theatre, Sabatini over-reacts and decides all consultants should be present during operating in future, should any fatal mistake be made by their registrars. This causes bad feelings and unrest among all the consultants and registrars. Eventually, Giles, Sabatini's Houseman, unwittingly finds the solution to the problem while checking where legally the limit to his own responsibilities lies.

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Musical Programme

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Hot Shot

Starring: Jim Young and Pete

Jimmy is a young man who is very keen on football and who's only desire is to become a major international football player, but there are obstacles in the way and Pete helps him overcome them.

Sunday, June 3

8:30 Who's the Boss

9:10 Horizon (Documentary)

sad; she lost her toy. Jamie is having problems with her date and Buddy is experimenting. How can anyone work under such circumstances?

9:10 A Horseman Riding By

The people at the valley rush to join the army thinking the war will not last long. They even doubt and assail the German professor who is here to do research work and Craddock, as usual, tries to cool things down.

10:00 News in English

10:20 In the Heat of the Night

Elderly citizens are being beaten and robbed, and the investigation is complicated by Virgil's injured back and his visiting in-laws.

Wednesday, June 6

8:30 Golden Girls

A charity parade is organised. Our heroines offer to take care of the participants' kids and that they do very well and their motherhood instinct is aroused.

9:10 The Nuclear Age

Europe Goes Nuclear

The U.S. monopolises the atomic bomb technology and even denies Britain access to it and so Britain develops its own. The French follow suit and with the formation of NATO and Warsaw Pact military alliances the number of nuclear warheads in Europe increases.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Hemingway

Hemingway takes part in World War II and changes wives again.

Monday, June 4

8:30 Perfect Strangers

9:10 FIFA Soccer

10:00 News in English

10:20 Blind Faith

Robert, it turns out, has taken out cover insurance on his wife for the value of 1½ million on the same day she got killed. And later we find that he wasn't rich after all — he leaves the house and contemplates committing suicide.

Tuesday, June 5

8:30 Charles in Charge

Charles is unable to do his homework because Sara is

Top researcher predicts drug remedy for alcoholism

VANCOUVER (R) — One of the world's top alcoholism researchers has predicted that medically-approved drugs that kill the craving for alcohol would be available within three to five years.

Dr. Ernest Noble, director of the Alcohol Research Centre at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), added that prescription drugs destroying the desire for illegal narcotics such as cocaine would be on the market soon afterwards.

"Alcoholics could take the prescription drugs a couple of times a week or maybe once a day. Their yearning to drink and go on drunken binges would be drastically reduced," he said in an interview.

Noble said drugs now available or modifications of present drugs probably could be used to cut the craving for alcohol.

"They should be available within, let's say, three to five years," said Noble, a biochemist and psychiatrist.

Noble, 61, is joint leader of a team of nine researchers from UCLA and the University of Texas, which last month produced a report linking alcoholism to genetic makeup.

The team's six-year research effort, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, included a study of the brain tissue of 70 dead people, half of whom were alcoholics.

The investigation showed

that 69 per cent of the alcoholics had a relatively rare gene known as the Dopamine D2 receptor gene. Noble described the incidence of the gene among alcoholics as statistically significant.

Noble said he and his fellow researchers were now busy taking blood samples of living alcoholics and their children as well as cocaine addicts to see which of them has the gene.

They are also trying to determine whether a combination of genes included the Dopamine D2 gene — made people more susceptible to alcoholism.

"We have to find out what, if any, is the defect in the brain" that could predispose

people to alcoholism or drug addiction, Noble said.

"Once we know that, then we can come out with appropriate drugs," said Noble, who was in Vancouver to address a conference of the International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency.

Traditional treatment for alcoholics — detoxification, diet modification and group therapy — does not eliminate the craving for drink but only masks the symptoms.

"We must give much greater attention to the demand for drugs than ever in the past. If we find a biological basis for a disorder, it opens the door for rational therapy," he said.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, May 31

1910 — Union of South Africa is founded.

1924 — China recognises Soviet Union.

1937 — German fleet bombards Almeria, Spain, in reprisal for loyalist air attacks on its battleship Deutschland.

1954 — State of emergency is declared in Buganda, Uganda.

1961 — South Africa becomes independent republic outside British Commonwealth with C.R. Swart as president.

1966 — Court in the Congo sentences former Premier Evariste Kimba and three others to death on charges of plotting to overthrow President Joseph Mobutu.

1970 — Earthquake hits Peru, leaving more than 66,000 dead, 20,000 missing and 200,000 injured.

1973 — U.S. Senate votes to cut off all funds for U.S. bombing operations in Cambodia.

1976 — Indonesia completes takeover of East Timor.

1987 — Shi'ite Muslim guerrillas fight Israeli-backed militiamen in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone."

1989 — Israeli warplanes attack targets on outskirts of Sidon in Lebanon.

Friday, June 1

1857 — Britain's Royal Navy destroys Chinese fleet in China Sea.

1869 — New Spanish constitution is promulgated, continuing the monarchy.

1883 — France launches war against Madagascar.

1952 — United National Party under Dudley Senanayake wins Ceylon elections.

1973 — Greece's Premier George Papadopoulos abolishes Greek monarchy.

1975 — Police in white-ruled African nation of Rhodesia kill 11 blacks in clash with rioters in Salisbury.

1976 — Syrian force, estimated at 4,000 troops and 200 tanks, invades Lebanon and captures Christian and Mus-

lim positions as it advances on Beirut in attempt to halt 14-month civil war.

1987 — Lebanon's Prime Minister Rashid Karani is killed when time bomb planted in attaché case explodes in his lap aboard helicopter.

1989 — Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir proposes harsher military measures for dealing with almost 18-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Saturday, June 2

1771 — Russia completes its conquest of the Crimea.

1815 — Napoleon Bonaparte issues a liberal constitution in France.

1917 — Brazil revokes its neutrality in World War I and seizes German ships.

1924 — U.S. Congress confirms citizenship on all American Indians.

1941 — Germany's Adolf Hitler and Italy's Benito Mussolini hold World War II meeting at Brenner Pass in the Alps.

1946 — Britain and United States restore Azores base to Portugal.

1949 — Transjordan is renamed the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

1965 — Almost 200 miners are killed in coal mine explosion near Fukouoka, Japan; European hostages are reported killed by Congolese rebels.

1966 — Southeast Asian nations of Indonesia and Malaysia agree to end five years of hostilities.

1974 — King of Bhutan, Jig Singhi Wangchuk, is crowned to become — at age 18 — youngest monarch in world.

1983 — Soviet Union announces launch of new space probe to planet Venus, and says it was fired into interplanetary space from satellite orbiting Earth.

1984 — India's army takes control of strife-torn Punjab state on eve of new, massive civil disobedience campaign by Sikh militants.

1988 — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev defends

his nation's human rights record following summit meeting said to have advanced East-West relations.

1989 — Japan's new Prime Minister Souda Uno pledges "clean start" for Japanese politics, disrupted for almost one year by bribery scandal.

Sunday, June 3

1896 — Treaty is signed in Moscow whereby China and Russia form defensive alliance for 15 years, and China grants Russia right to operate railway in northern Manchuria.

1917 — Albanian independence under Italian protection is proclaimed.

1937 — Britain's Duke of Windsor marries Mrs. Wallis Simpson of United States in France.

1940 — Allied evacuation from France is completed in World War II.

1942 — Japanese planes raid Dutch harbour, Alaska, in World War II.

1946 — South African Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Bill is passed.

1959 — Singapore becomes self-governing.

1966 — Peking's Mayor Peng Chang, major political figure in China, is removed from office.

1973 — Soviet supersonic airliner crashes during Paris International Air Show, killing the six crewmen and seven French villagers.

1976 — Bolivia's former President Juan Jose Torres is found murdered in Argentina.

1984 — Punjab comes under virtual martial law as army troops seal off India's troubled state and prepare to flush out Sikh terrorists.

1988 — U.S. President Ronald Reagan says summit meetings with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev have started to "take down the barriers" of the Cold War.

1989 — Chinese troops storm Tiananmen Square in clash that kills at least 13 people and injures more than 100 others.

Monday, June 4

1647 — England's King Charles I is seized as hostage by the army.

1800 — Genoa capitulates to French forces.

1805 — United States concludes peace treaty with Tripoli.

1813 — Prussia and France sign armistice of Poischwitz.

1815 — Denmark cedes Pomerania and Rugen to Prussia in return for part of Duchy of Lauenburg.

1859 — Austrians are defeated at Magenta by French, who free Milan in Italy.

1942 — Battle of Midway begins in World War II, and U.S. ships inflict first decisive defeats on Japanese.

1943 — Army troops march into Buenos Aires and overthrow government of Argentine President Ramon Castillo.

1944 — Allied forces enter Rome, Italy, in World War II.

1956 — Egypt announces it will not extend Suez Canal Company's concession after expiration in 1959.

1970 — Kingdom of Tonga in Pacific becomes member of British Commonwealth.

1974 — Death toll from smallpox is listed as at least 10,000 in 1974 in Indian state of Bihar in one of worst epidemics in recent years.

1978 — China's Foreign Minister Huang Hua, visiting Zaire, expresses sharp criticism of Soviet and Cuban involvement in Africa.

1984 — Vietnam accuses China of massing troops and weapons along their common border.

1987 — Indian Air Force transports backed by fighter jet planes parachute relief supplies onto Sri Lanka's Jaffna peninsula.

1988 — Iraqi warplanes attack ship in tanker holding area off Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal in northern Gulf.

1989 — Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, dies at age 86.

By The Associated Press

Weekend Crossword

Edited by Herb Ettenson

DENTISTRY SCHOOL DROPOUT

By Bert R. Knies

ACROSS
1 Swindler
2 Hoax
3 Track actions
4 Latin verb
5 Believe the stuff
6 Place of sacrifice
7 Doctor
8 What teeth seldom have
9 Cynical
10 What is the least
11 Front parts
12 Own user
13 Leap
14 Kind of peas
15 "Peter Pan" girl
16 In a suit

DOWN
1 Neon sign
2 Singer name
3 Group members
4 Chaplain
5 Cucumber traffic sign
6 Prejudice
7 "Mighty" — a
8 "Rock"
9 1230 at sea
10 Crowlike bird
11 Narrow street
12 "Take — leave it"
13 — Vegas
14 Infirmary
15 Earth goddess
16 Adolescent
17 Puppeter Tony
18 Vacation spots
19 Nuzzled
20 TV's Winfrey

Diagrams

1 X 21, By James Barrick

ACROSS
1 — car police vehicle
2 Part of a pound
3 Solid
4 High card
5 Cabbage variety
6 Advertising phrase
15 Gr. letter
17 Samba
19 Frozen desserts
23 Clutched

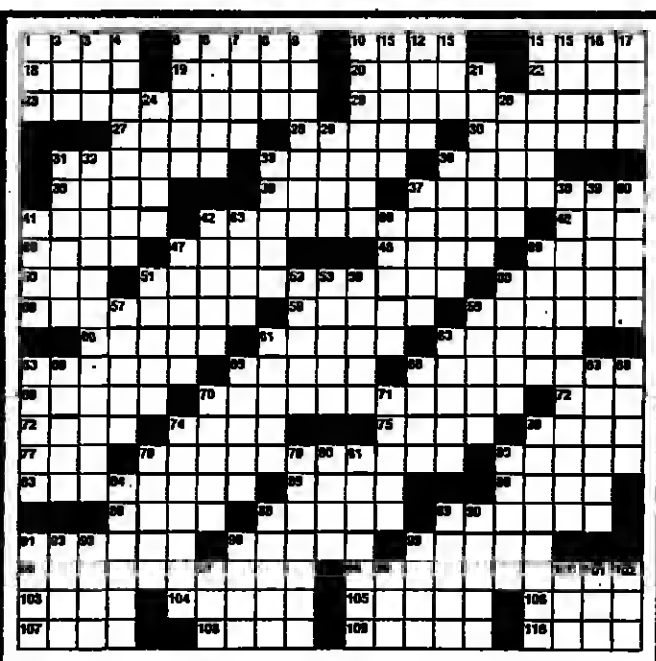
DOWN
1 Soft drink
2 Mercury
3 Illusory
4 Play part
5 Turkish ruler
10 Ignobles
11 Chain of olden times
13 Cured medium
14 — 20,000
15 League's captain

35 Scott, soup
37 Allen
41 Uncanny
42 Which choppers
43 Cheese type
44 Cuckoo
45 Paul
46 Hindenburg
47 What exactly is
48 Front parts
49 Probe
50 Cite important
51 Kind of peas
52 "Peter Pan" girl
53 In a suit

28 Former — day
31 Titania's husband
32 Movers are grinders. What are canines?
33 Tomatoes
34 Cartoonist
35 Medical plant
36 Name a powerful but safe
37 Suez Canal
38 Has status
39 What is a lion
40 Cites in NY, AL
41 Hippo
42 Polos closely
43 Craft
44 Narrow ribbon
45 Apartments

29 Woman of rank
30 "Oh, my" — comedy poet
31 A deadly sin
32 Shells from
33 Shirt part
34 A proposition
35 Den
36 Letter opener
37 Information gathering sheet

38 Instructing
39 Huntley
40 Short and stocky
41 Digit
42 Plus
43 Stage direction
44 Letter-day
45 Artless
46 Contentious
47 Not burning
48 Make resolution



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Happy is he who can pack his troubles away in a big trunk, sit on the bed, and laugh.
2. People like to say a good diet keeps you young and fit — not old and fat.
3. Happy folk need no more to press unhappy lady's pretty dress.
4. Tall baseball owner looks at new rookie hitting long ball with big bat.

CRYPTOGRAMS

LWO MABAC FNEE FXNG AGHNPWJOMKEEL
PIL XYENC KNBWG HIFPAWGB YWE

—By Gordon Miller

2. OJHPRY DEC HXR ACEYREHJEP, SUMRS
JF EENCH. OJHXRXMS ARCHJEPH DUBHY.

—By Ed Huddleston

3. ALORURLY'Y PROP FLE FLY PHAG EH FRY
CLDDREY LIV DRCVY DGEFGGI LUEY.

—By Lois H. Jones

4. "SWISBUCA" PIAT FCUCZ FAYCAYSA
ATPTD YY "WYOW SWIRAFCAZIE"

—By Norton Rhoades

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Plastic surgeon gives new lease on life

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — Despite the giant steps forward taken by modern medicine, the so-called miracles of plastic surgery remain a lottery as evidenced in recent court cases brought by several disfigured victims in the United States. Choosing a well-recognized plastic surgeon remains the key to success, but in countries like Egypt where plastic surgery is practiced only by qualified surgeons, consumers have some added protection.

In Cairo, one of the leading men in the field is Dr. Mohammad Adly Al Bechri, 56, whose long medical career has made him one of the country's foremost experts in cosmetic and reconstructive surgery. "While general surgery is often a life-saving measure, the surgery I practice is usually something that has been voluntarily decided by the patient and is designed either to rebuild or improve things," he explained recently in his office. A consultant to several government and private hospitals in Cairo, he earned diplomas in Egypt, the United States and England. "Plastic surgery often is more than just luxury performed to satisfy a client's whim," he said. It stems from a deep psychological need: "I often see patients who are not satisfied by their appearance. Very often, these are perfectly normal people, pleasant-looking even, but who are deeply dissatisfied by one or several of their features: large mouth, prominent nose,

breasts that are either too heavy or too small. Mostly these people have come to feel that for some reason their external appearance no longer coincides with their personality and they hate the image they see in the mirror."

Dr. Bechri also points to cases of clients who seek to change their appearance for professional reasons: "These are people who are involved in public life and whose appearance is crucial, almost an instrument of work. Not all our clients, therefore, are mature women who want to erase the traces of time. Quite often these are young women and men who are turning to cosmetic surgery in increasing numbers because they realize that a young, dynamic look is an asset."

Patients are dependent on the surgeon's sense of proportion and symmetry and on his capacity to envision results before the work is done. Noted Dr. Bechri: "In plastic surgery, we are dealing with people who are perfectly healthy and we must therefore guarantee a high level of success. This is not always easy. A human being is like a closed box, and despite extensive preliminary examinations, one never knows what one is going to find once the surgeon's knife is at work and opens the box." According to Dr. Bechri, the surgeon must be in a position to guarantee his patient at least an 80 per cent chance of success, if only to justify the cost of the operation.

Consumers should beware that high fees don't necessari-



Dr. Mohammad Adly Al Bechri

ly mean expertise. Despite his reputation, Bechri charges relatively low fees — a face-lift typically costs between \$1,000 and \$2,000, as does an operation to remove excess fat from the stomach — while other Egyptian surgeons charge as much as \$5,000 for similar operations.

Dr. Bechri likes to stress that the relationship between the surgeon and his patient must be based on trust, which sometimes means that he is forced to turn a patient away. "In some cases, the very nature of the skin prohibits in-

tervention, and in others, the muscles would not be able to withstand any extra tension," he said, also warning that post-operative care is crucial to avoid complications and to ensure success. For example, incisions can become infected if they are not properly cared for and can leave unsightly scars that ruin the surgeon's work.

Perhaps more significant than his work as a plastic surgeon is Dr. Bechri's experience in reconstructive surgery for patients with birth defects and those involved in

accidents and explosions, or burn victims. "The bulk of our work consists in treating victims of accidents and also people suffering from birth defects such as a cleft palate or a hand with six or seven fingers. And we erase scars from general surgical operations," said Dr. Bechri, who is a member of several top international professional bodies. He also teaches plastic surgery at the Military Academy of Medicine and is married to Dr. Alia Nassar, a professor of anatomy at the Ain Shams University. They have two children, both involved in medicine.

Deeply interested in research, Dr. Bechri noted that both cosmetic and reconstructive surgery are dependent on science and new technologies. Progress in the field has been spectacular, he added. "Science has moved ahead so fast that in a matter of years, if not months, we may be able to have an unlimited supply of a patient's skin." Referring to ongoing research into methods of growing pieces of skin in a nutritious solution from a small piece taken from the patient, he explained that this type of skin graft would be more successful because the patient's body would not reject its own skin. This holds potentially vast promise, especially for victims of severe burns. Equally promising is research into similar techniques to grow bone matter and cartilage.

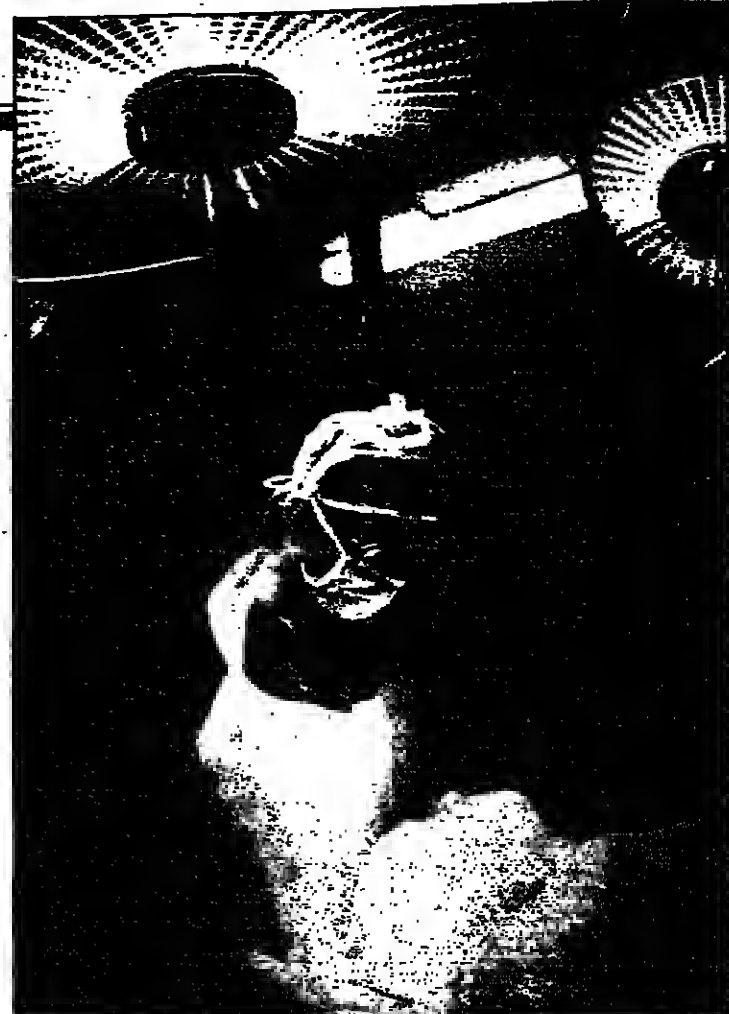
"One of the most important advances of recent years concerns methods of expanding the skin," Dr. Bechri added:

The surgeon inserts a small bag under the skin which is gradually filled with a saline solution. When the skin has stretched into the required shape, the bag is removed.

Scientific research has also led to considerable improvement in the technique known as liposuction, which consists in draining excess fat from various parts of the body. Although widely used in recent years, the method often left unattractive folds of excess skin. According to Dr. Bechri, such after-effects are now minimised by draining the fat from several points in a "criss-cross" pattern. "With this method, and a strict control of the amount of fat removed, we can avoid most problems," he said.

Quite apart from appearance, excess body fat can be a threat to a patient's general health, he stressed. One of the most common operations performed on both men and women in Egypt involves removing excess fat from the stomach area. "Sometimes it is no longer a question of esthetics but a vital necessity. When I remove kilos and kilos of fat, it's beneficial to the heart and other organs. This is a major operation... and results are often spectacular, both in physical and in psychological terms," he noted.

It appears that the operation itself often triggers further slimming. "Weight loss occurs not only in the area where the fat was removed but in the whole body," the doctor explained. "It takes between four to six months



Once on the operating table, nobody knows for sure what the results will be.

for the result to show, but it is stable and gratifying."

On the rise is demand for bone transplants, often used to rejuvenate a tired face. Explained Bechri, "a bone transplant is essential in cases in which facial sagging is due to the degradation of the skeleton owing to loss of calcium. In such cases, a face-lift involves transplanting bone obtained from a part of the skull that is concealed by the

hair to the cheekbones, chin or nose."

While reconstructive surgery and cosmetic surgery boast new types of treatment almost every month, Dr. Bechri remains a staunch advocate of well-proven techniques involving a minimum of risk to the patient. While a traditional surgeon's work is to save lives, much of his consists in making life worth living — World News Link.

Parrot may offer hope for autistic children

By Debra Hale

The Associated Press

EVANSTON, Illinois — Alex is 13 going on 2½ and talks numbers, colours and even turkey with his trainer, a university researcher who hopes her work with the African grey parrot some day may help autistic children. Alex's lexicon features 80 of his favourite things and some of his not-so-favourite. Mimicking his trainer's Boston accent, Alex's vocabulary is a cross between wise-guy chattering and grumbling. One moment Alex is as liable to be as humble as the next parrot, saying simply, "wanna cracker." The next moment, he might be brasher, declaring, "you're a turkey," when some human tries his patience.

"These birds have the personality of a 2½-year-old," said trainer Irene Pepperburg, a visiting Northwestern assistant professor of anthropology. "He obviously has a short attention span" — evidenced by the keys, rocks, grapes and nuts he's strewn over her laboratory floor.

She bought Alex a pet shop when he was a baby and soon began her research, training him through a modelling technique. "She said the technique used with Alex might some day be used with dysfunctional children, including the autistic, who fail to form relationships with others."

"The idea of understanding how another form of intelligence works will help us understand how all forms of intelligence work," she said. Thomas Zentall, a University of Kentucky psychology professor, has researched animal cognition. Pepperburg's procedures "may be the critical way in which (autistic) children learn language," he said.

Researchers now don't know how children normally learn language skills and don't know how to teach those who have trouble communicating, he said.

In Ms. Pepperburg's modelling technique, Alex watches as she shows objects such as

toys, keys, paper or nails to a student and pronounces the word. The student repeats the word and is rewarded with the object.

Ms. Pepperburg then takes Alex through the procedure, rewarding him each time he succeeds.

She asks how many keys she's holding. "Two," Alex correctly replies.

She holds two objects — one square, the other, round. "What's different?"

"Shape," he responds. But sometimes a testy Alex emerges. Bored with the same old games, he skips the right answer as he spills off a list of colours, or retorts, "you tell me what colour."

Alex's speech is not language and "I'm not trying to claim it is," Ms. Pepperburg said.

"He has the ability to reproduce the sounds of speech. He understands the concepts," she said, adding that while he understands the concept behind a world like "cracker," he may not understand the meaning of every word he says.

But Alex is no bird-brain. When hungry, he might mumble lazily "wanna cracker." Handed such alternate delicacies as corn, a grape or a nut, Alex knows the difference. And this time, with the demanding tone of an old man who gets everything from his slippers to his supper catered, Alex declares, "I want cracker."

Other simple sentences include: "I want Showah" — sprayed with water.

"I want to go back" — a yearning to return to his cage, where Alex prances along the edges as if he were a high-wire acrobat, whistles a loud, if not pretty, tune, nervously scratches his feathers, and watches to make sure he has an attentive audience.

Zentall noted researchers' reluctance to describe Alex's skills as language. "We haven't really developed a good definition of language," he said. "Humans do it, and animals don't, and now animals are infringing on this."

First human gene transfer opens new cancer treatment

By Daniel Q. Haney

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Experiments have shown for the first time that human blood cells carrying foreign genes will zero in on tumors, opening a new strategy for treating cancer, researchers said.

The preliminary study, conducted on seven patients, is the first approved attempt at human gene therapy — inserting potentially helpful genes inside the body in places where nature failed to put them.

The experiment was intended to show that the approach was possible. Physicians introduced a bacterial gene that had no effect on the patients' cancer.

Soon, however, they plan to equip patients' blood cells

with a gene that delivers a powerful natural cancer-killing substance known as tumor necrosis factor. The researchers hope that will cure the disease by blizzing the tumor with extremely high levels of toxic proteins.

"This is the first study in which foreign genes have been introduced into humans with survival of those cells," said Dr. Steven A. Rosenberg. "This is meant to pave the way to introducing genes that can improve the survival of cancer patients."

His pilot study showed that not only did the cells survive, they homed in on tumors and produced a foreign protein there.

Rosenberg outlined his results at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. A more detailed report is scheduled to

be published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Dr. Robert Young of Philadelphia's Fox Chase Cancer Centre noted that while biologists have isolated genes that make potentially useful substances, transferring that knowledge from the petri dish to cancer patients has been difficult.

"The introduction of foreign genes and transferring them into human cells and putting them back into humans is an extremely important observation," Young said of Rosenberg's work. "The potential of doing this and asking therapeutic questions is now possible."

Rosenberg, a National Cancer Institute researcher, developed a cancer treatment known as adoptive immunotherapy intended to harness the body's own cancer-

fighting chemicals to control the disease.

His first results, using the protein Interleukin-2, attracted wide attention when they were announced five years ago. Follow-up research showed only a small minority of patients, perhaps 5 per cent to 10 per cent, respond with complete reversal of the disease.

The latest work is an attempt to boost the power of those natural chemicals by delivering them directly to the tumor. Rosenberg described the results of experiments over the past year on his first five patients.

First, doctors removed so-called tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes from each patient. Those are cancer-hunting white blood cells that had invaded the tumors of patients dying of melanoma, a form of

skin cancer.

Then, doctors isolated a gene that gives bacteria the ability to resist the antibiotic neomycin. They put that gene into a crippled virus, which in turn carried it into the patients' white blood cells.

Finally, they multiplied the blood cells in test tubes with Interleukin-2, a growth hormone, injecting 200 billion of those cells into each patient.

Because the cells carried a bacterial gene, doctors could track them through the patients' bodies. They found that the manipulated cells persisted in the blood for up to 189 days.

They performed biopsies on two patients and found the cells in the tumors, making the bacterial protein. 64 days after the injections.

All of the patients treated were expected to die within

three months. Two of them responded well to the boosted levels of tumor-infiltrating cells, and the melanoma has disappeared in one completely for 10 months.

Rosenberg said the experiment worked just as his team had hoped.

"There were no surprises in this," he said. "I am looking forward to trials that hopefully will help cancer patients."

He said he and colleagues had already succeeded in inserting the gene that makes tumor necrosis factor into human blood cells. Those cells make 100 times higher levels of the protein than are ordinarily present.

Rosenberg said he hoped to win approval within a few months from several regulating committees so he can try the next step on melanoma patients.

Flour mill workers at higher risk for cancer — U.S. study

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. flour mill employees who worked with grain pesticides for many years face a risk of cancer that can be nine times greater than the risk faced by other grain industry workers, according to a study reported Tuesday.

Examination of health records of more than 22,000 workers in the grain industry found flour mill workers were at sharply increased risk of developing leukemia, pancreatic cancer and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

"We have a suspicion that it

is a result of pesticide exposure, but that isn't proven yet," said Michael C.R. Alavanja, a researcher who supervised the National Cancer Institute study.

Results were reported in the latest issue of journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Alavanja said flour mill workers were twice as likely to have applied pesticides than were workers in other portions of the grain processing industry. He said the excess numbers of cancer deaths "appears most striking among flour mill employees."

He said that in the last 40 years a variety of chemicals has been used to control insects that infest the nation's stored grains.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the industry commonly used DDT and hydrogen cyanide. Carbon tetrachloride, a known

cause of cancer, was used until it was banned in 1985. Phosphine gas is now the most commonly used fumigant.

The researcher said he had no evidence of any increased cancer risk for people eating bread or other products made from flour produced in mills.

Scientists seek new medicines from marine creatures

By Lee Siegel

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Sponges, algae and other ocean creatures are yielding new substances that hold promise as medicines against cancer, psoriasis, parasites and infectious diseases such as AIDS, scientists say.

The search for drugs from the sea focuses on organisms that lack physical defenses and therefore must produce chemicals to protect themselves against predators, said John Faulkner, a marine chemist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California.

"They don't have spines. They don't have shells. They can't run. They're just a blob on the reef, and they look like food but they're not eaten," Faulkner said. "When we see something like that we say, 'aha. This must be chemically protected.'"

Manoalides — a class of

anti-inflammatory drugs derived from sponges that live near Palau in the North Pacific — now are being tested on humans with psoriasis, an unsightly thickening of the skin that causes painful cracks and blistering.

Manoalides could be on the market in three or four years, and a few other drugs derived from marine creatures are expected within 10 years, said biochemist David Attaway, director of marine biotechnology for the National Sea Grant College Programme in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Faulkner and Attaway were among 35 scientists at a workshop on drugs from the sea this month at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB).

"Increasingly, scientists are turning to marine organisms in their search for new pharmaceuticals because of diminishing returns from continued screening of land-based plants and animals,"

UCSB spokesman David Salisbury said.

UCSB workshop participants reported they have identified marine-derived drugs using funds from the Sea Grant Programme, which Attaway said has spent \$700,000 to \$800,000 per year on such research since 1977. Chemist Phil Crews, of the University of California, Santa Cruz, extracted two compounds from sponges near Fiji and Vanuatu in the South Pacific.

In test-tube experiments, the substances appeared effective in combating tape worms and other parasites, including some that plague cattle and sheep. The chemicals also show some ability to fight viral diseases, and one of them can inhibit the activity of an enzyme that lets the AIDS virus reproduce itself.

William Fenical, of Scripps, said a number of marine bacteria show promise as antibiotics.

Jay Burgess, of UCSB, is studying how calcium moves and is deposited inside red algae. Attaway said that might help scientists understand and treat diseases such as arthritis and lupus.

Richard Moore, of the University of Hawaii, outlined efforts to use blue-green algae to produce tumor-fighting substances. Preliminary tests show "a number of very active compounds," Attaway said.

Faulkner said the government is investigating one substance derived from blue-green algae as a possible anti-AIDS medicine. Other substances purified from sea plants or animals are being developed as possible drugs to fight fungal infections, Faulkner said.

"About 50 per cent of the drugs in use at the moment are from natural sources," mostly terrestrial, he said. "And a large number of the ones that are synthetic started out as a compound that was

from a natural source but then was modified and improved."

Drugs developed from living organisms include many used for cancer chemotherapy, as well as antibiotics derived from bacteria or fungi that were genetically altered, he said.

Some medicines were developed from sea creatures even before the Sea Grant Programme started its search in 1977. Attaway said sponges yielded a class of compounds that have anti-tumor properties and also combat certain diseases caused by viruses, including viral encephalitis, a brain inflammation.

Attaway said that compared with land organisms, sea plants and animals yield a high "number of novel substances that prove to have some effect on a biochemical or physiological process in another organism. Those are the processes you need to control to cure or control diseases."

Faulkner said scientists search for sea-derived medicines partly by intuition. Plants or creatures that might have drugs are chopped up or soaked in alcohol to derive crude extract, which then is tested.

In perhaps 20 years, scientists should be able to take cells from drug-producing organisms, culture the cells in the laboratory, and then manipulate the cells' genes to make them efficient drug factories, Attaway said.

But like many scientists, he complained that progress has been slowed by limits on funds due to inflation and federal budget restrictions. Drug companies have been slow to take up such research, but their interest is increasing as many marine scientists trained with Sea Grant funds go to work to industry, Attaway said.

"That's going to be the key to making this work really meaningful," Attaway said.

Handwritten signature or mark.

Arab leaders assail U.S. policy, affirm united stand against common challenges

FOLLOWING ARE extracts from the final communique of the Arab summit which ended in Baghdad on Wednesday (Translation by Reuters from the Arabic text):

The conference discussed as its principal topic the threats to Arab national security and measures to deal with them.

The conference welcomed the creation of the Yemeni Republic on May 21, 1990.

The conference expresses full support for the Yemeni people and its leadership and sees in the Yemeni unity an embodiment of nobility and a symbol of Arab unlimited energies.

It sees the unity as an example to be followed on the road to total Arab unity, progress and civilised renaissance.

The conference assessed the current situation in the Arab World, the changes in the international arena and the threats to Arab national security and the effect of all this on the present and future of the Arab Nation, and especially on the rights of the Palestinian people.

The conference welcomed international détente, cooperation among peoples and the halt to the arms race... the conference is fully aware of the positive and negative consequences of these changes imply more than ever before the need for the Arab Nation to rely on its own capacities.

The conference affirmed the need to ensure all forms of material support and official and popular political support to guarantee that the intifada continues and develops in order to reach its noble aim of liberation, independence and sovereignty.

The conference tackled the question of how to deal with the great dangers arising from the deliberate and organised Jewish immigration operation to Palestine, and the other occupied Arab territories, the consequent violation of the rights of the Palestinian people and the implications of Zionism's plans to expel them from their national homeland, legitimise the Israeli occupation, expand its control through concentrated Israeli settlement, deporting Palestinian citizens and confiscating their property and land to absorb the Jewish immigrants, to bring about the so-called "greater Israel" plan.

The conference is convinced that the transfer of the Soviet and other Jews to Palestine and the other occupied Arab lands is a new attack on the rights of the Palestinian people, a great danger to the Arab Nation and an impudent violation of human rights and of the principles of international law.

The conference, vigorously condemning the transfer of the Jews to Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories, asks states directly involved in the immigration and the international community in general to work to bring about a rapid end to the Israeli plan... and calls for affirmation that Israeli settlements are illegal and must be stopped, that those set up must be dismantled and that an international mechanism must be found to monitor and expose Israeli activity in this field.

The conference calls on various states to refrain from giving any aid or loans to the Israeli government to facilitate the settlement of immigrants.

The conference affirms the need to assess Arab relations with other states in the light of their position on the rights of the Palestinian people and Jewish immigration.

The conference considers this huge and planned operation as a grave threat to national Arab security that requires immediate and united action and the taking of all precautions that would safeguard the rights of the Palestinian people and national Arab security.

The conference appeals to the United Nations to bear its responsibilities... to ensure that Jewish immigrants do not settle in Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and to set up international monitoring to put this into practice and to work to issue a Security Council resolution on this.

The conference expressed its conviction that the growing tension which threatens to explode results from the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Palestine and other occupied Arab territories, the continuing denial of the inalienable national rights of the Arab Palestinian people and the continuation of the policy of aggression, terrorism and expansion which the Israeli authorities practise.

The conference is fully convinced that the protection of Arab rights and the defence of Arab lands and holy places can only be attained through the unity of Arab ranks and aims and the bolstering of Arab solidarity and through continued struggle with all means including the massing of all Arab potentials in the service of Arab causes.

The conference holds the United States primarily responsible for this as it provides Israel with the military means, financial help and political cover without which it could not pursue these policies and defy so arrogantly the will of the international community.

In light of the developments in Eastern Europe the conference calls for a reevaluation of Arab relations with Eastern European countries in accordance with these countries' stand vis a vis the Palestinian cause and on the basis of mutual interests.

Committed to the Palestinian peace initiative and the resolutions of Arab summits, especially in Algiers in 1988 and in Casablanca in 1989, the conference affirms that calling for an international conference under U.N. auspices, attended by all parties to the dispute, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation on the basis of equality, now takes on an urgent character... lies in guaranteeing the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to return, self-determination and to set up an

independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The conference expresses its indignation and condemnation of the positions of bias, political protection and major support to Israel, militarily and economically, which mark the positions and resolutions of the U.S. congress, the last of which were the invalid resolutions on Jerusalem... and support and financing of the Jewish migration.

The conference reaffirms Jerusalem's political and religious status and considers the Holy City an indivisible part of Palestine and the capital of the state of Palestine. The conference rejects any alteration in the legal or religious status of the city and considers that to be a stark violation of international law.

The conference condemns the resolutions of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, affirming that the Arab states will take political and economic measures against any state which considers Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

The conference calls for protection for the Palestinian people against the genocide and immigration plan through international supervision under the auspices of the United Nations in preparation for the exercise by it of its right to self-determination and national independence.

The conference vigorously opposed American attempts to repeal U.N. General Assembly Resolution 378, which considers Zionism a form of racism and racial discrimination and calls for intensified effort to thwart these attempts.

The conference... condemns most vigorously these threats, campaigns and hostile measures (against Iraq) and affirms its effective solidarity with Iraq and warns against the continuation of these campaigns, which are designed to damage its sovereignty and national security in preparation for aggression against it.

The conference affirms Iraq's right... to possess science and advanced technology and use them for purposes which are permitted under international law.

The conference also affirms the legal right of Iraq and all Arab states to reply to aggression by the means they see fit to protect their security and sovereignty.

The conference is completely aware of the organic link between state security and national Arab security and notes the stand of steadfastness that Jordan stands on the longest confrontation line with the enemy and, therefore, condemns Israeli expansion and settlement policy including Israeli plans to settle Jewish Jews in Arab territory which represents a direct threat to Jordan and subsequently to the Arab Nation.

The conference affirms its total commitment to the defence of Jordan's national security as an integral part of the security of the Arab Nation. The support and solidarity with Jordan and the guarantee of the means for its steadfastness stem



His Majesty King Hussein with summit host Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (Photo by Youssef Al 'Alam)

from the fact that Jordan is an advanced base of the nation protecting its borders and defending its existence and warding off danger.

The conference decided to give aid to Jordan through bilateral consultation with it to enable it to reinforce its steadfastness.

The conference condemned American threats to use force against Libya and deplored the extension by the U.S. administration of the economic blockade against Libya and calls for it to be lifted.

The conference expresses deep gratitude to all countries, organisations and people who stood and still do on the side of the rights of the Palestinian and the Arab peoples, and asks them for more moral and financial support in the service of justice and peace in the world and to put an end to Israeli intransigence.

The conference noted with great satisfaction Iraq's peaceful initiatives (towards Iran), the last of which was the letter of peace which President Saddam Hussein of Iraq sent to the Iranian leadership.

The conference reiterates its previous resolution... which calls for a comprehensive and lasting peace between Iraq and Iran on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598... (in a way) which guarantees Iraq's rights and... historic right to sovereignty over the Shatt Al Arab.

The conference calls for more intense efforts... for the release of prisoners of war on both sides and their immediate repatriation.

The conference expresses solidarity with Sudan and Somalia.

The conference hails the independence of Namibia and the freeing of Nelson Mandela. The conference hails Arab-African cooperation and warns against Tel Aviv - Pretoria cooperation. The conference encourages all bilateral cooperation between Arab and African states and their organisations.

The conference (affirms) that it continues to support the legitimate Lebanese authorities and it is fully prepared to do what it can to end the Lebanese tragedy.

The conference also condemned the repeated attacks which Israel makes on Lebanon and called

on the international community to implement Security Council resolutions which call for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory, especially Resolution 425.

The conference affirmed that the Taif agreement is the appropriate framework to protect the interests of all Lebanese without exception.

The conference asked the Arab tripartite committee to try to follow through implementation of the Taif agreement.

The conference decided to set up an international fund to help Lebanon and enable it to rebuild... and asked the international community to contribute effectively to the fund.

The conference notes the importance of science and technology for the future of humanity and therefore reaffirms the right of the Arab Nation to free access to use science and technology for the advancement of its people.

The Arab states, while supporting international efforts to ban weapons of total destruction... affirm that an operation of this kind in the Middle East must be based on the principle of total disarmament for all weapons of total destruction and not only one kind of them.

It must also take place in the framework of a comprehensive and just solution to the conflict in the region and must be coupled with the provision of equal opportunities to obtain technology, including nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and conventional weapons for all parties in the region without discrimination or partiality.

The conference notes that concentrating on only one type of total destruction weapon in the Middle East region means in essence adopting a selective method for the region.

The conference decided to hold Arab summit conferences regularly on an annual basis in November of each year.

It also decided to hold the next ordinary summit in the Arab Republic of Egypt in November 1990.

The conference decided to call Arab foreign ministers and ministers of economy and finance to hold an urgent meeting, within two months, to study these matters (Jewish immigration and the Arab position towards international economic blocs).

King hails success of summit

(Continued from page 1)

Arabia, and the other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council," he stressed. "Facts and figures are not yet worked out, but we should be going into these discussions pretty soon."

He said that the King had no alternative but to deliver his strongly-worded speech to the summit after all previous attempts to obtain financial assistance had gone nowhere. "Israel is plotting to change Jordan from a stronghold into crack in the Arab front," the King said in his speech to be read on Monday. "We need your support now, not tomorrow, not in the future," he stressed.

"Jordan had reached its highest point of tolerance, and the King had to send his loud and clear message during the summit," the aide said. "Fortunately the Arab leaders responded with urgency and enthusiasm, and for that we are grateful," he added.

A senior Jordanian official paid tribute to Iraqi President

Saddam Hussein and his efforts to enforce Jordan's message to the summit. "President Hussein deserves full appreciation and respect for his extremely important role in driving our message home," the official said. "His understanding of Jordan's position and its organic relationship to pan-Arab security, and his wisdom and courage in handling the issue of support for Jordan by the wealthier Arab states made all the difference," the official said.

In his dinner with the editors, the King sounded encouraged and optimistic not only about expected Arab support for Jordan but also about the meaning of holding the summit and the institutionalisation of Arab summitry as a whole.

"The fact that the summit was held at all, at this point in time when the Arabs are facing grave threats and dangers, means a lot," the King said.

"For Arab leaders to talk to each other, amicably and frankly and with goodwill, is infinitely better than talking at each other or not talking at all. The

way to solve inter-Arab problems and tackle dangers and challenges facing all of us is best done through meeting each other and taking under one ceiling," he said.

"In this respect at least the summit in Baghdad is a big achievement."

The King lauded the conference's resolution to regularise Arab summit meetings as an important step towards institutionalising them. "It is very significant and encouraging to have the Arab leaders agree on meeting in an ordinary session at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo every year," he said.

"This should help us avoid many problems of the past where Arab countries often disagreed on the venue and timing of their meetings and in the process hindered common Arab action and joint moves," he added.

"This way summitry can be institutionalised and its work whether on the preparatory level or in terms of results, can always ensure success."

Arabs to counter challenges

(Continued from page 1)

support for Baghdad in its war words with the West and Israel. Iraq has warned that it would retaliate with binary chemical weapons if attacked by Israel and the West has accused Iraq of seeking to build nuclear bombs and a "supergun" capable of delivering chemical and nuclear warheads.

The final statement condemned "threats, campaigns and hostile measures against the Arab World," and denounced American efforts to repeal a U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism.

It said the U.S. had "a basic responsibility as the state which provides Israel with the military means, financial aid and political cover without which Israel could not continue such policies and so arrogantly defy the will of the international community."

In sum, the final communique was seen as a victory for Iraq and the PLO which had pressed for harsh language against the United States despite opposition voiced by Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The summit accused the U.S. Congress of snuffing out and financing Jewish immigration to

Israel and voiced "indignation and condemnation of the positions of bias, political protection and great support of Israel... and resolutions of the American congress..."

Condemning the American legislative body for passing resolutions recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, the Arab leaders warned of political and economic action against any country which recognises the Holy City as the capital of the Jewish state.

Absent from the final statement was an Egyptian-proposed resolution to rid the Middle East of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. According to conference sources, several delegations argued that such an effort should be part of an overall Middle East peace settlement and dismissed the idea that some weapons of mass destruction could be outlawed and not others.

The Arab kings and presidents said they were committed to the Palestinian peace initiative and to the resolutions they adopted at their last summit in Casablanca, Morocco, in 1989.

A senior PLO official said: "The purpose for which the conference was convened has been realised."

Britain

(Continued from page 1)

change from headline to moderation in Israeli public opinion.

He said that Israel should show willingness to enter into a dialogue with representatives of the Palestinians, but stopped short of calling for direct talks between Israeli leaders and representatives of the PLO.

He said that Britain would continue to maintain and build its traditional relationship with Jordan.

Hard stressed that above and beyond the expected \$25 million in aid to Jordan in three years' time, Britain was also playing a part in the rescheduling of the Kingdom's foreign debts.

Hurd said that it was very important for Jordan and all its friends which include Britain, that the Kingdom successfully overcomes its economic difficulties.

Qadhafi spurs summit laughter

(Continued from page 1)

population, I invite your attention to Egypt. You may have to pay the high costs to our brother (Egyptian President) Hosni Mubarak."

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, President Mubarak, and other leaders laughed heartily.

Egypt's population has exceeded the 55 million mark, with acute housing, food supply, and other problems in the thin habitable strips on Nile Valley land on which Egyptians live.

"With a single exception, I stopped attending Arab summits since (the 1970 death of Egyptian leader Jamal) Abdul Nasser, because these to me amounted to nothing but a big zero," Qadhafi told the summit. "And each subsequent summit amounted to one more mark below zero, down to a bottomless end."

But Qadhafi praised his host, saying "I am inclined to admit

that this summit here, ably managed by our brother President Saddam, deserves to be rated one mark above zero."

"I hope that each of the coming summit will be rated one additional mark above zero."

Qadhafi promised to be more regular with his summit attendance, "now that I see the Baghdad summit is so positive and useful."

"The people and armed forces of the Jamahiriya (Libya) are ready to come to Iraq's defence at your bidding, if need be," O brother Saddam," said Qadhafi.

Turning to Mubarak, Qadhafi said, "and I don't see why the (colonial times) British-placed barbed wire between me and my brother Hosni cannot be dismantled."

Mubarak retorted: "It's you who put it there O Muammar," as the conference ball burst once more into laughter.

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Moscow insists on referendum

By Robert Evans
Reuter

MOSCOW — Deputy Prime Minister Leonid Abalkin said Wednesday the Soviet government would insist on a country-wide referendum in a bid to get popular support for its drive to create a market economy.

Abalkin also told a conference of Western business executives and specialists on trade with the Soviet Union that the government had decided on a slow and steady reform package to avoid stoking social tension.

"The government will insist on the holding of a referendum, or we will not be able to implement reform," said the deputy premier, an economist who heads a team preparing the break from over 60 years of rigid central economic planning.

"This government, like any government anywhere, can do nothing without a public vote of confidence," he told the conference, organised by the London-based Financial Times newspaper and the Moscow Institute of the Economy of the World Socialist System.

Abalkin's remarks appeared to reopen the question of a referendum on the new package.

Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov's report on the planned reform programme last week in the Soviet parliament sparked panic buying and a wave of strike threats.

A central element of the reforms is a big rise in prices in the run-up to a full market economy.

A stage-by-stage three-fold increase in the price of bread, held artificially low for decades, begins July 1.

Abalkin himself first raised the referendum idea last week but in his speech to parliament Ryzhkov appeared to back away from it, referring to "consultation with the public" but saying he would resign if he saw he did not have popular support.

In a televised speech Sunday, President Mikhail Gorbachev made no mention of a referendum — which many Soviet politicians on the right and on the left say the government would lose — although he pleaded for support for the reform package.

Abalkin told the business conference Wednesday that the reforms, approval of which the Supreme Soviet or parliament postponed for a week Tuesday, came at a time of crisis of popular confidence in all official institutions.

"In this climate, to introduce reforms without the approval of the population would be sheer adventurism," he said. If the Soviet people approved the package, it would strengthen the government's hand in dealing with strikes, he added.

"If a strike knows he is facing just the government, that is one thing. But if he is challenging public opinion as well, that is something to make him think again," Abalkin declared.

Moscow mayor and leading radical politician Gavril Popov told the conference that a referendum was bound to end in defeat for the government in the present situation despite the prospect of a turn-around in the crisis-ridden economy by 1995.

Ordinary Soviet citizens have expressed mounting fears — openly encouraged by conservatives and old-style Communists — over the unemployment which the reforms are bound to cause.

Popov, a firm backer of a market economy and a bitter critic of the long-ruling Communists, said it was the country's rulers who should pay the price of reform, and not the Soviet people.

He said the government had decided against a more radical package because it would have meant the end of all party control in industry. "And this the (party) apparatus is not ready to accept," he declared.

Abalkin, who joined the government last summer despite his unpopularity with party conservatives, said the more radical of the two packages considered would have brought an overall growth of 40 per cent by 1995 to the stagnant economy.

But it would have brought in the first two years a 25 per cent decline in industrial production, mass unemployment, a sharp fall in investment and steep price rises, he said.

The plan that was presented to parliament by Ryzhkov, Abalkin said, would also bring some unemployment and price rises in the initial period but on a smaller scale. It should achieve overall growth of 10-15 per cent between now and 1995, he said.

E. Germany moves to privatisation, but keeps protection

By Richard Murphy
Reuters

BONN — East Germany plans to accelerate the privatisation of state-owned companies but at the same time protect its creaking industries in a unified German economy.

Economics Minister Gerhard Pohl said Tuesday parliament would soon reorganise the state agency responsible for turning state companies into private enterprise minded concerns.

Only 170 of 8,000 state firms have been prepared for privatisation by being converted into state-owned private companies since the collapse of Communist rule in East Germany late last year.

"If we carry on like this, it will take five years before we have converted everything. We need to act more quickly," Pohl told a news conference.

But in a simultaneous move, which ran counter to the spirit of the free-market economy, he said imports of West German consumer goods would face a temporary import duty of 11 per cent to protect East German industry.

The tax takes effect on July 1 when East and West Germany are due to merge their economies under a treaty on currency and economic union signed this month.

Speaking after talks in Bonn with West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann, Pohl said the government wanted to attract investors to buy shares in East German

companies and help reduce its huge budget deficit.

The break-up of state monopolies is seen as an essential part of establishing a market economy after the introduction of West Germany's currency in East Germany.

Haussmann said he believed the break-up of unwieldy state enterprises and the growth of a host of new small and medium-sized companies would lead to rapid economic growth.

Competitiveness and productivity will increase very quickly," he said.

Pohl acknowledged restructuring East German industry would inevitably lead to some unemployment, but he declined to speculate how many people could lose their jobs.

Around one million East German workers would be retrained this year to help them adapt to the new work environment and the number of young people in apprenticeships would increase five-fold by September, Pohl said.

"We are working intensively on active retraining, not passively dealing with unemployment," Haussmann said.

The temporary import duties, in the form of an additional value-added tax, were announced in a statement issued in Pohl's name in East Berlin. They will be cut to six per cent at the end of the year and scrapped altogether in March 1991.

Pohl said they would only apply to certain consumer goods and not to investment goods—imported from West Germany.

World Bank passes major loan to China

WASHINGTON (AP) — A World Bank spokesman reported that representatives of 152 governments unanimously approved \$300 million for China Tuesday, the bank's biggest loan to China since tanks suppressed the pro-democracy movement there last June.

Approval came despite protests in the U.S. Congress and from Chinese student groups in this country.

The United States contributes more than any other country to the bank, which is the biggest source of aid to the Third World. Patrick Coady, the U.S. executive director, is one of the 22 members on the board that met Tuesday and approved the loan behind closed doors.

Until last year, China was one of the bank's two biggest borrowers, along with India. It borrowed \$1.35 billion in the 12 months that ended last June 30. Since then it has only had \$140 million.

The new loan will go largely for planting trees in 15 Chinese provinces. China can take 40 years to repay it, at less than one per cent yearly interest.

Within a week after tanks went into Tiananmen Square, bank President Barber Conable held up loans to China worth \$780 million. Then President George Bush asked that loans be withheld. Later, he said they should be granted only four basic human needs.

U.S. Treasury spokesman Robert Levine said after Tuesday's board decision that the forestry loan qualified under that definition because it provides jobs, fuel and housing material for low-income farmers. It is part

of a \$500 million project, for which China will provide the other \$200 million.

Conable has said repeatedly that the bank makes its loans only on economic grounds, with no attention to politics.

The bank spokesman, Peter Riddleberger, said another loan — \$150 million for roads and waterways in China — was indefinitely postponed at Tuesday's meeting. He said the postponement was asked by one of the 22 executive directors, whom he declined to identify except to say he was not the U.S. representative.

The prospect of the two loans brought a sharp protest from three influential congressmen, led by Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, chairman of the House of Representatives Banking Committee.

In a letter last week to Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, they said that granting the loans would endanger the prospect of new money for World Bank help to the poorest countries, and for Eastern Europe.

"We expect that the political atmosphere in the Congress will be poisoned to the point of making thorough analysis and consideration on the merits of these important initiatives extremely difficult," Gonzalez wrote.

He said that under U.S. law, Coady should vote against the loans and try to persuade other governments' directors to do the same.

The letter was also signed by Rep. David R. Obey, who chairs the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee and delegate Walter Fauntroy, head of Gonzalez' subcommittee on international development policies.

OECD poised to restart stalled talks

PARIS (AP) — Trade and finance chiefs of two dozen Western nations met Wednesday to try to restart trade talks stalled by a stubborn dispute over government payments to farmers.

The two-day talks of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development were expected to focus on the Uruguay Round negotiations, a four-year effort to overhaul the world trading system.

Shortly before the meeting began, West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann said the United States must ease its demand that European officials scrap their costly subsidy programmes for farmers.

The administration of U.S. President George Bush wants the 12-nation European Community (EC) to end import barriers and export and domestic farm subsidies that distort trade. The community has said it is cutting back on farm payments but cannot eliminate them.

The dispute has raised concern that the international trade talks could end in failure during their final round of bargaining in Brussels in early December.

"It's very important that the United States and the European Community find a sort of mechanism that insures an overall reduction of support prices," Haussmann told a breakfast meeting of the Anglo-American Press Association in Paris.

"That means the United States will have to depart somewhat from its position," he said.

He said the EC "will certainly agree to a substantial reduction of support measures."

He added, though, it should have "certain margin" room for action to apply these reduction measures to individual support policies.

On the eve of the talks, U.S. trade representative Carla Hills said the officials "must give a political push" to the Uruguay

Round.

Hills and other officials want to move ahead with the Uruguay Round, due to end in December after four years, so a preliminary agreement can be reached in some areas under discussion at a July 23 session in Geneva.

"Agriculture is a key to the success of the round, so that the Europeans are going to have to decide whether they want a successful round," she told a news conference.

The negotiations, involving some 100 nations, are designed to reduce barriers to trade in 15 areas, including agriculture, textiles and other manufactured goods, and services such as banking and investment.

Negotiators want to bring commerce in some of these areas under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, a forum and an agreement for promoting freer trade. By doing that, unfair trading practices and barriers would be curbed.

"We're out in the jungle in those areas," Hills said. "So if we don't get a deal in agriculture, we're not going to build the rules we need in these areas where there are no rules at all."

U.S. officials also have run into trouble trying to get Third World countries to back their ideas for tough rules that would prevent patent and copyright piracy.

Also, poorer countries are unhappy with a U.S. proposal to expand GATT market-opening rules to cover trade in services, such as banking, investment and insurance. American companies do so well in the service fields that those countries fear their infant industries would be hurt.

For their part, Third World countries want the GATT talks to tear down barriers to trade in textile products. The United States, under pressure from U.S. textile groups, is pushing a less-comprehensive attack on existing tariffs and quotas.

Lagos urges concessions on loans to African states

ABIDJAN (R) — Nigerian Finance Minister Olu Falae called Tuesday for concessions on all commercial bank loans to Africa and the cancellation of aid debts to governments.

"It has become very clear that (current debt) relief measures are grossly inadequate," he said at the opening of the African Development Bank (ADB) annual meeting. "There is therefore need for new ideas."

Falae, the outgoing chairman of the ADB's board of governors, proposed the exchange at full face value of all outstanding commercial loans for bonds payable over a period of at least 30 years.

The bonds should pay a fixed and very low interest rate, with an extended grace period, he said without giving further details.

Falae also proposed that existing debt should be converted to the currency in which each country earns most of its revenue.

"There should also be a provision for debt buy-back by the debtor countries at very deep discounts," he said, adding that the write-off of develop-

ment aid debts made by some countries should be extended to all such borrowing.

The ADB's latest debt calculations, issued in its annual report published at the meeting, showed total African debt to private creditors was \$21.9 billion at the end of last year, down from 23.3 billion a year earlier.

The bulk of Africa's debt, which the ADB puts at around \$226 billion, is owed to official creditors.

The decline in private debt partly reflected loss of African country's creditworthiness, the ADB report said.

Although the total commercial debt is relatively small, low-income African countries are increasingly struggling to meet rising interest payments from weak export earnings.

The ratio of total scheduled debt service payments to exports of goods and services rose to 31.5 per cent in 1989 from 30.5 per cent in 1988, the ADB said.

African debtors have so far failed to benefit from U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's plans to reduce commercial bank debt, which has focused on Latin America.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



Dear Sirs: The car payment is late this month due to a family tragedy. My checkbook died.

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

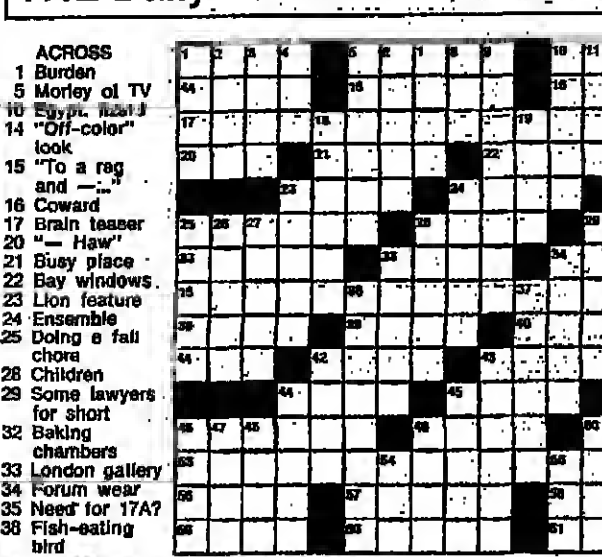
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumble: TOOTH DIZZY BOBBIN KECBOX
Answer: An "addiction" to this can cause some people to become sleepy — "DICTION"

THE Daily Crossword by Harold B. Counts



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



43 Labeled 49 War god
44 Gowns 50 Ravel
45 Shoe material 51 Swindle
46 Unearth 52 Princely II
47 Long 53 family
48 Lots 54 in 'la la'

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MAY 31, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An excellent day to investigate investments and affairs that you make rapid advancement.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You aim to move in the confidence of an influential outside person who is able to give you the support you need for some public ambition.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can be just as personal as subjective as you like today in going after whatever aspirations means the most to you and make big progress.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A day to consider just what your intimate desires and aims that activate you most strongly are and to get further data how to rightly obtain them.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get out in the world of personalities and join forces with them in the hobbies and whatever draws you closer together and ties deeper.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A day to get out in the world of activity to let whomever you can contact know of your career and civic ambitions and accept their assistance.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Consider whatever newcomers that have come into your sphere of influence and how you can best join forces with them to make more progress and development.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Now you have a day when you have some inspired ideas what you can do to so better arrange your life and affairs that you make rapid advancement.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JUNE 1, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Your becoming more determined to produce results of a practical nature and it is the right day to get your affairs on a more solid and secure foundation. Clear the decks for action now.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A day to try to seek ways to make a better budget to suit your particular needs so you will have more abundance for things you really want.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Its a day for you to seek ways to make your personal appearance more attractive and also to have some health exercises to improve vitality.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You feel you are limited and restricted so you can not express yourself as you wish so quickly get rid of obstacles in the path of your aims.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A demanding person can get you irritable so that you can make a mistake in judgment about an important practical matter unless you are on the lookout.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make sure you plan early and schedule days activities and then carry through steadfastly despite the urge to go off on a non-sequiter tangent.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Before you go off on that trip or to the new activity make sure that you have completed and put behind you carefully present pressing obligations.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have some fine responsibility you would like to get cut from under but this is not the day to take any overt action in this direction.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can lock horns with a stubborn associate and have adverse results flow unless you act in an understanding and cooperative manner.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look for the various more efficient ways that you can attend to your routine activities, and don't try to do too much in a short time today.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are apt to be anxious for some good time that you commit yourself to some expensive entertainment that is not necessary for your enjoyment.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Matters at your home come to a pretty difficult pass if you in any way show disapproval or criticize a family member.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a day when it is vital that you use care in motion or on the highway for danger lurks around the corner but you can sidestep it by caution.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, May 30, 1990
Central Bank official rates

| | Buy | Sell | Japanese yen (for 100) | 442.7 | 445.4 |
|----------------|--------|--------|------------------------|-------|-------|
| U.S. dollar | 668.0 | 672.0 | Dutch guilder | 354.5 | 356.6 |
| Pound Sterling | 1134.5 | 1141.1 | Swedish crown | 110.2 | 110.9 |
| Deutschmark | 399.0 | 401.4 | Italian lira (for 100) | 54.4 | 54.7 |
| Swiss franc | 473.5 | 476.3 | Belgian franc (for 10) | 194.2 | 195.4 |
| French franc | 118.5 | 119.2 | | | |

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

TOKYO — Stocks closed firmer, the Nikkei was up 108.59 or 0.33 per cent to 32,926.26 after shedding 343.94 Tuesday.

SYDNEY — The market closed firmer after a day of volatile trading, with stocks experiencing sharp fluctuations following the release of gross domestic product figures. The All Ordinaries Index ended 4.6 points up at 1,499.5.

HONG KONG — Shares surged to end at a new post-June 4 high on a much improved political climate. The Hang Seng index ended 34.8 up, or 1.14 per cent, at 3,083.35.

SINGAPORE — Shares closed mixed on profit-taking and a lack of buying. The Straits Times Industrial Index closed 0.76 of a point lower at 1,557.44.

BOMBAY — Shares closed mixed on heavy profit-taking by state-owned Mutual Funds after the market opened firm. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index fell 7.70 to 803.89.

FRANKFURT — The market surrendered early gains to epid mixed as follow-up orders needed to sustain the early optimism dried up. The Dax Index closed at 1,840.54, 2.20 points off Tuesday's close and well below on opening high of 1,854.06.

ZURICH — The All-Share SPI index closed at a high for the year of 1,177.4 on heavy volume boosted by the Swiss franc's strength.

PARIS — Prices ended lower. The CAC-40 index fell 2.29 to 2,120.80.

LONDON — Shares remained sharply higher in late trading as a firmer Wall Street opening added support. At 1503 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 48.8 at 2,344.4.

NEW YORK — After a pause for profit-taking, blue chips resumed their early gains on top of Tuesday's rally. Futures-related buying helped push the market up. The Dow was up 10 at 2,881 in late morning.

Trail Blazers beat Suns

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — Clyde Drexler emerged from a playoff shooting slump to score 32 points and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Phoenix Suns 120-114 Tuesday night for a 3-2 lead in the Western Conference finals.

The Blazers, who increased their homecourt record to 9-0 in the playoffs, could advance to the National Basketball Association (NBA) championship series for the first time in 13 years if they win Thursday night in Phoenix.

Phoenix, which lost for the 20th straight time in Portland, trailed by as many as 12 points in the first half before rallying to take a 106-101 lead with 6:23 left. A four-point play — a 3-pointer by Drexler and a free throw by Kevin Duckworth on the play — helped bring Portland back.

The Trail Blazers tied it 109-109 on a short jumper by Terry Porter with 4:59 to go. Phoenix had four chances to regain the lead before Jerome Kersey's two free throws put Portland ahead with 2:54 left.

After Kevin Johnson's missed

shot, Drexler's dunk on a fast-break made it 113-109 with 2:30 to play.

Mark West made one of two free throws with 1:53 to go before Dan Majerle scored inside to make it 113-112 with 1:16 left.

Buck Williams missed a shot for Portland before Tom Chambers made two free throws for a 114-113 Phoenix lead with 47 seconds to play.

The Trail Blazers regained the lead when Drexler was fouled by Majerle and made both free throws.

After Majerle missed a shot for Phoenix, Jeff Hornacek grabbed the rebound, but lost the ball in a scramble. Williams was fouled on the play and gave Portland a 117-114 lead with 15 seconds left.

Hornacek missed a 3-pointer with six seconds to go. Kersey got the rebound and made one of two free throws with 5.2 seconds left.

Drexler, shooting 40.5 per cent from the field for the playoffs, was 13-for-24 in game 5 and had 10 rebounds.

Kersey had 21 points and 11 rebounds and Porter scored 19.

Johnson had 28 points and 14 assists and Chambers 22 points and 13 rebounds for the Suns, but he was just 6-for-21 from the field.

In the Eastern Conference finals, the Bulls, bidding to become only the fifth NBA team to overcome a 2-0 deficit to win a best-of-7 series, pulled even at 2-2 with a pair of impressive victories over the weekend.

Now it's the Bulls talking tough, like Detroit used to, as they prepare for game 5 on Thursday.

"We have the momentum and the confidence," the Bulls' Michael Jordan said. "We have to steal the game from them and win. We have a very positive attitude."

And you don't have to look very far to see where Chicago got all that confidence. It was in all those hours of Detroit tapes the Bulls had to watch, trying to figure out how to stop the "Jordan rules" which the Pistons had used so effectively.

The Bulls decided the best way to beat the Pistons was to play like the Pistons. So the Bulls turned into "bad boys."

"I told the guys before (game 4) they get six fouls in the NBA: Use every one of them," Bulls coach Phil Jackson said. "We didn't use all of them, but we let them know we came to play. If we keep up this intensity, no one will be able to beat us."

Chicago had only one more personal foul than Detroit, 33-32, in the fourth game, but boxscores can be misleading. Seven of Detroit's fouls were intentional in the game's final minute. Free throws accounted for the Bulls' final 11 points.

And those fouls weren't slaps on the wrists. They were more like the body slam variety, the kind Bill Laimbeer is known for.

Romania holds bridge tournament

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — More than 200 bridge players are shuffling their cards at Romania's first international bridge festival since Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu banned the game seven years ago.

Over the weekend, about 800 players from Romania, Bulgaria, the Soviet Union, Poland and France are expected to gather at Bucharest's main exhibition hall for the festival, which ends Sunday.

Dragos Faun, who helped organize the event, said he thinks Ceausescu banned bridge in 1983 because it brought "too many smart brains together," hinting at the former dictator's fear of opposition of any kind.

But bridge referee Victor Marculetiu thought Ceausescu banned the game to separate his oldest son, Valentin, from other players.

"He used to play a lot and was an intelligent guy. He was OK. I think he does not deserve his fate," he said. Valentin, his brother Nico and sister Zola were arrested and jailed following the December revolution, in which Ceausescu and his wife, Elena,

were deposed and executed.

Bridge fans founded the Romanian Bridge Federation in January, just weeks after the uprising, and began organizing the first competitions for its almost 4,000 members.

Since January, Romanian players have disputed the European championship in Bordeaux, France, placing among the top third. They also played in a tournament of one-time Communist nations in Riga, Soviet Union, and placed second.

Marina Alart of France said she came to Bucharest for the festival.

"I have found out that the Romanians play better than the French. They like to attack. Neither the Spanish nor the Belgians are so strong. Only the Germans do better," she said.

Theodor Chimion, a former Romanian who now lives in France and also came to play said: "I left the country in 1972. Then, I returned to Romania to work here for an Austrian company until Ceausescu forced me out in 1982. By that time I had already played 100,000 games."

Agassi brakes losses

PARIS (AP) — The purge of top seeds at the French Open stopped Wednesday. Andre Agassi, the top man left in the tournament, overcame a sluggish start to win in straight sets and women's first seed Steffi Graf breezed despite allergy problems.

Fourth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini also won, although she blew two match points in the second set before advancing to the third round as well.

A day after no. 1 Stefan Edberg and no. 2 Boris Becker were eliminated to leave him atop the men's draw, the third-seeded Agassi moved his screaming shots to court and beat Canadian qualifier Todd Woodbridge 7-5, 6-1, 6-3.

The American struggled early, blowing a 4-0 first-set lead and losing off five set points. He turned it around just as quickly and allowed Woodbridge just four games the rest of the way.

There was none of the surliness that marked Agassi's first-round victory. In fact, he was cheered widely by thousands of children at the tournament for a school holiday, and did some showboating at the end, hitting the ball into the stands after match point and jumping over the net.

"I went out today with the feeling, 'the first two seeds got beat.' Boris and Stefan getting beat helped me in that respect. You can't take anything for granted," he said.

Graf beat Jennifer Santrock 6-1, 6-2 and said afterward that she was troubled by sinus and ear problems diagnosed as an allergy to "something in Paris — the day, the air or something."

She has had similar medical problems at past French opens. "I was wondering why I was always getting it here," Graf said.

"The doctor says I will be all right in 2-3 days."

The way Graf played against Santrock, there was not even a hint she was feeling less than 100 per cent.

Santrock made the tournament as a "lucky loser" from qualifying when former champion Hana Mandlikova withdrew with an injury. She won her first-round match over Britain's Sarah Loosmore, but against Graf her luck ran out.

The world's top women's player, out to regain the French Open title, breezed through the first set and broke in the fifth game of the second set, wrapping up the victory in just 51 minutes.

Sabatini had a tougher time before defeating American Susan Sloane 6-0, 5-7, 6-1. Sloane fought off two match points in the eighth game of the second set, then won five straight games to tie the match at a set apiece.

She was up 30-0 in the first game of the third set when Sabatini started playing as she had in the first-set shutout.

Also among the winners on the third day of the clay-court grand slam were eighth-seeded Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union, who beat Jean-Philippe Fleuriau of France 7-6, 6-1, 6-0; 13th-seeded Jim Courier of the United States, who beat Milan Srejber of Czechoslovakia 7-6, 6-1, 2-6, 6-2 and 1988 runner-up Henri Leconte, a 6-4, 6-2, 6-1 winner over Bruno Oresar of Yugoslavia.

Women's 11th seed Jada Novotna also advanced with a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HIRSCH
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WAIT FOR THE LAST MINUTE

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 7 5 2
♥ 5
♦ 8 4 3
♣ A J 6 4

EAST
♠ 8 6
♥ A K Q J 8 3
♦ Q 10 7 2
♣ 3

SOUTH
♠ A K J 10 3
♥ 10 7
♦ A 6 5
♣ K 7 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♣ 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣
"Don't be too eager to commit yourself to a specific line of play. A finesse that was destined to succeed at trick two will work equally well at trick 10 or 11."

North's preemptive jump to four spades worked extremely well. Because of the double fit in the red suits, five hearts by East-West would be defeated only one trick, but the vulnerability made it too risky for East to enter the fray.

West led the king of hearts and, when East followed with the deuce 10, indicated he was prepared for a switch. West shifted to the two of

diamonds. It might seem that the fate of the contract now hinged on the club finesse, but declarer elected to postpone that decision until more was known about the distribution.

Declarer captured the king of diamonds with the ace, drew two rounds of trumps and ruffed the remaining heart in dummy. Now came the key play—declarer led a club to the king and exited with a diamond. West won the trick with the ten, but the defense was in its death throes.

If West asked the queen of diamonds, his forced red-uit return at the next trick would allow declarer to ruff on the table while disposing of a losing club from hand. If West put East on lead with a low diamond to the jack, that worthy would have an additional means of committing suicide—besides conceding a ruff-shaft, East could lead a club into dummy's ace-jack tenace.

What if West could win the third diamond and lead a club? Then declarer, having exhausted all other possibilities, would have to fall back on the club finesse to try to land the contract.

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FRIDAY'S RACES AT THE ROYAL RACING CLUB-TUNEIB

FIRST RACE 4.00
FOR BEGINNER HORSES
DISTANCE 1000 METRES

| Owner | Horse | Trainer | Jockey | Weight |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------|---------|--------|
| 1- Musallam Khatlan | N. Um El-Amad | Owner | Yousef | 56 |
| 2- Muhammad S. Khatlan | M. Ramzy | Owner | Owner | 56 |
| 3- Ahmad Khatlan | Fattah | Owner | Anwar | 56 |
| 4- Ziad Younis Awad | E. Kahir | Owner | Owner | 56 |
| 5- Farhan Fakh Oudh | E. Baze | Owner | Owner | 56 |
| 6- Salih Mady Adwan | Ghamrah | Owner | Jbarat | 54.5 |
| 7- Mohammad S. Eljbarat | Sittayad | Owner | Owner | 54.5 |
| 8- Shihadih Aly Fokara | N. Naeil | Owner | Owner | 54.5 |
| 9- Mahmoud A. El Adwan | M. Abdulrah | Owner | Owner | 54.5 |
| 10- Mohammad S. Nabulsi | A. Mshlak | Owner | Younis | 51.5 |
| 11- Adnan Radwan | Saad | Owner | Rasheed | 50 |
| 12- Dr. A. El Naeem A. Wandy | S. Maen | Owner | Owner | 50 |
| 13- Hany Hussein Lozy | E. Asil | Owner | Hiary | 50 |
| 14- Nawal Anwar Shalan | Samerkand | Owner | George | 48.7 |

SECOND RACE 4.30
FOR BEGINNER HORSES
DISTANCE 1000 METRES

| Owner | Horse | Trainer | Jockey | Weight |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------|----------|--------|
| 1- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable | Dahis | Abbas | Fawaz | 56 |
| 2- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable | Karam | Abbas | Anwar | 53 |
| 3- Fayad Mohammad Assaf | Mafakhir | Owner | Kamel | 54.5 |
| 4- Sak Ghazy A. Jabir | E. Ashkar | Owner | Mostafa | 53 |
| 5- Ahmad Khalil Tawilish | S. Soliman | Owner | Hiary | 53 |
| 6- Naeil Anwar Shalan | Mahasin | Owner | Hiary | 51.5 |
| 7- Mansour Anwar Shalan | E. Alfra | Owner | El Ta'el | 48.5 |
| 8- Nawal Anwar Shalan | Sarkih | Owner | George | 50 |
| 9- Abdullah El Dawoud | Widan | Owner | Hiary | 56 |

THIRD RACE 5.00
FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES
DISTANCE 1400 METRES

| Owner | Horse | Trainer | Jockey | Weight |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------|--------|--------|
| 1- Hany El Hadeed | Rose | Owner | Ahmad | 58.35 |
| 2- Naeil Anwar Shalan | Murrah | Owner | Mohsin | 56.5 |
| 3- Qudallah Marly | H. Marly | Owner | Owner | 56.5 |
| 4- Nimr El Hmoud | B. Rabadan | Owner | Hiary | 56.5 |
| 5- Nimr El Hmoud | I. Rabadan | Owner | Owner | 56 |
| 6- Salim A. Rawas | E. Mayas | Owner | Owner | 56 |
| 7- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable | Hamdan | Abbas | Fawaz | 54.5 |
| 8- Fawaz Anwar Shalan | Ashar | Zaidan | Itaf | 53 |
| 9- Nawal Anwar Shalan | Re'ad | Mohsin | George | 53 |

FOR AMATEURS
DISTANCE 1000 METRES

| Owner | Horse | Trainer | Jockey | Weight |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------|--------|--------|
| 1- Malik A. Hamdan | I. El Reeh | Owner | Maryos | 56 |
| 2- Vity Kayal | Maryos | Owner | Saty | 56 |
| 3- Kristina | Elghool | Owner | Owner | 56 |
| 4- Jalal Kutob | Hanna Jahshan | Owner | Owner | 56 |
| 5- Hanna Jahshan | Hanna Jahshan | Owner | Owner | 56 |
| 6- Hany Elhadeed | Hanna Jahshan | Owner | Owner | 56 |
| 7- Naeil Anwar Shalan | Hanna Jahshan | Owner | Owner | 56 |
| 8- Mohammad El Kurdy | Hanna Jahshan | Owner | Owner | 56 |
| 9- Omar Radley | Hanna Jahshan | Owner | Owner | 56 |

CAMELS RACE 6.00
DISTANCE 1000 METRES

| Owner | Camel |
|------------------------|----------|
| 1- Soud Abdullah Salim | Jalran |
| 2- Ali Sulman Eied | Shalan |
| 3- Zaki Ghadyan | Zaran |
| 4- Aly Salim Sulman | Holaban |
| 5- Abdullah M. Jalal | Nolan |
| 6- Abdullah Mousa | Hassan |
| 7- Haid Awad | Jolan |
| 8- Khidir S. Mohammad | Rihan |
| 9- Paneti M. Imir | Ghdallan |

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IN THE
DEAD POOL

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Cinema CONCORD

Tel: 677420

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Zayed/ Najwa Fuad
in
THE EGG AND
THE STONE

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

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BITTER LOVE

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

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in
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(Arabic)

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Doe's troops attack U.N. compound, abduct 30 men

Fear and chaos in Monrovia as Liberian guerrillas close in

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Government troops attacked a United Nations compound early Wednesday where members of rival tribes had taken shelter, killing a U.N. security guard and abducting at least 30 men, witnesses said.

The incident came as frightened Liberian families packed their belongings and fled the capital amid rumours that rebels are closing in. Top ministers are apparently deserting President Samuel Doe to join the exodus.

"We don't want to be slaughtered," said a Liberian outside the embassy of neighbouring Sierra Leone, where dozens sought visas Tuesday. Many shops and schools were closed.

In recent days, fighting between government troops and the rebels moved in within 56 kilometres of Monrovia.

Several hundred men, women and children of the Gio and Mano tribes had sought refuge at the U.N. compound and were sleeping in the open there when about eight soldiers attacked at about 3:45 a.m., witnesses said in condition of anonymity.

Jerry Samu, a U.N. security guard being treated for a bayonet wound in the back, told reporters the soldiers said they were looking for rebels, who get their

support from the Gio and Mano tribes.

When guards refused to open the gates of the compound, about 8 kilometres from the city centre, soldiers jumped the 1.5-metre wall, rounded tribes people up at gunpoint and made them strip, then loaded them naked into several military jeeps, the witnesses said.

Reporters who visited the compound were shown a bundle of clothing, shoes and sandals. Witnesses said it belonged to the abductees.

A woman who escaped said the soldiers were from Doe's Krahn tribe.

"I heard them speaking Krahn," said the woman, who would not give her name. "One soldier wanted to kill us women. Another said to let the women and children go. Then they let us go and took the men away."

They said the vehicles headed down the road away from Monrovia in the direction of Scheffelin Army Barracks.

Joseph Leeway, chairman of a committee of refugees, gave U.N. officials a list of 27 missing people. "These are just the names that we could get," he said. "We think there were many more. It is a Krahn plot to eliminate Gios and Manos."

The attack came a few days after U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar sent a special envoy to Liberia to discuss the war with Doe's government.

On Sunday, Gios and Manos sought asylum at the U.S. embassy, but were turned away and sent to the United Nations. Those seeking shelter say they want protection and safe conduct out of the country.

Meanwhile, the Liberian senate was meeting Wednesday morning to discuss a request from Doe for early elections in hopes of resolving the 5-month-old conflict.

On Tuesday, Doe's beleaguered government broadcast appeals for the public to "go about your normal business" and refrain from panic. But government officials themselves appeared far from calm.

Diplomats said Doe, who took power in a bloody 1980 coup, has been moving from one location to another during the night. His

presidential jet and an army Cessna plane were kept ready at an airfield in the capital.

Some government ministers have apparently already deserted Doe. According to news reports and Western officials who met government leaders, the portfolios for foreign affairs, internal affairs and information were being handled by acting ministers.

Although no authoritative word was available on the latest fighting, reports broadcast Tuesday quoted rebel leader Charles Taylor as claiming his troops had been attacking soldiers around the country's main airport, an hour's drive from Monrovia.

However, businessmen in the area said the airport remained open, and British Airways said its flights were still arriving.

Doctors in the capital set up a committee and mapped out emergency plans to deal with casualties in case the city is attacked.

The military appeared less prepared. Scheffelin Barracks, which would be the last line of defence between the rebels' front line and Monrovia, appeared deserted but for a half dozen soldiers at a roadblock.

Chinese dissident calls for Soviet-style reform

PEKING (R) — A Chinese dissident freed from jail this month vowed to continue to speak out and called on his country's Communist leaders to adopt political reforms like those pushed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Zhou Duo also said if China failed to reform it could risk a political explosion on the death of elderly leader Deng Xiaoping. "I must speak out to remind our leaders to push reforms ahead," the 43-year-old dissident said in an interview late Tuesday. "I want to use my voice for peaceful change to help my country move toward this goal of following Gorbachev."

Zhou was one of four hunger strikers in Peking's central Tiananmen Square when the army moved in on June 4 to crush a democracy campaign.

He and two of his companions at the time, singer Ho Dejian and former editor Gao Xin, plan to release an open letter to the government calling for the freeing of political prisoners.

The fourth hunger-striker, Liu Xiaobo, is still in jail.

The bespectacled and bookish-looking dissident was an adviser to the Stone Group computer company, but it is unclear whether he will get his job back. Stone was accused of aiding the democracy campaign and its chief, Wan Runnan, fled China.

Zhou, arrested last June, was one of 211 prisoners released this month. No charges have been filed against him.

During his interrogation, he admitted his protest in Tiananmen Square violated martial law.

"But the objective of our hunger strike was to protest against martial law," he said, adding that he believes his activities were otherwise legal.

Malaysia hangs 8 for drug offences

TAIPEI, Malaysia (R) — Eight Hong Kong people convicted of drug trafficking were hanged Wednesday after efforts to save them, including an appeal from the British government, failed to sway Malaysian authorities.

The seven men and one woman died in the biggest mass hanging in Malaysia, a predominantly Muslim nation of 17 million people.

Six men were executed in a prison in the northern town of Taiping, which means "eternal peace" in Chinese.

Three were hanged at 3.15 a.m. (1915 GMT Tuesday) and three at 4.40 a.m. (2040 GMT), a British High Commission official said.

The seventh man and the woman - who had fallen in love in jail and had wanted to marry - went to the gallows nearly 200 kilometres away in Kajang Prison on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur at 5.45 a.m. (2145 GMT), lawyer Karpal Singh said.

A large crowd outside the 111-year-old prison in Taiping, which has three sets of gallows, heard the sound of the trapdoors opening twice.

Shortly after, inmates were heard shouting in Chinese, "they are here," a reference to the arrival of the doctor and magistrate who confirmed the deaths.

The bodies of company director Ng Yin Kwok, 37, waiter Li Chi Ping, 28 and transport worker Chan Yu Tim, 33, were taken in a hearse for cremation in Taiping, a mining town.

The bodies of transport worker Au King Chor, 32, driver Yuen Kwok Kwan, 28, and Ip Tak Ming, 36, a supervisor in a vegetable marketing firm, were taken to the nearby island of Penang for cremation.

The eight were arrested at Penang International Airport in 1982, the year before Malaysia made the death sentence mandatory for drug traffickers. They were convicted in 1985 of possessing 12.7 kilograms of heroin.

"They were very calm when they were taken to the gallows," said Malaysian Salvation Army volunteer Lee Kong Yee, quoting witnesses inside Taiping Prison. "They were dressed in their best attire."

He said doctors operated on Ng and Li, who had, converted to Christianity recently, to remove their eyes which they had offered to donate for transplant surgery. Lee said the six had all asked to be cremated at Penang, but facilities there were limited.

Reports indicate Tibetan prisoners being tortured

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department said Tuesday it has received numerous reports of torture by Chinese authorities in Tibet, and it called on China to take effective measures to guard against such abuses.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the reports received by U.S. officials coincide with those contained in a study by Asia Watch, a private human rights group.

The report said the incidence of serious torture in Tibet "is at least as bad as it has been for years, and in some cases worse."

There has been speculation among some officials that China's decision to lift martial law in Tibet a month ago was aimed at encouraging the administration of President George Bush not to revoke trade privileges from China.

Ignoring appeals from some members of Congress, Bush announced last week that China's most-favoured-nation trade status would be retained.

About two weeks after martial law was lifted, a U.S. consular

official visited Tibet to review the human rights situation there. It was the first visit of its kind since martial law was imposed, and Tutwiler expressed hope that such visits will be permitted in the future.

"Renewed diplomatic access will enable us to monitor the situation in Tibet more directly and to raise human rights concerns with officials there," she said.

The administration also hoped the lifting of martial law "will lead to further easing of tensions and the release of those imprisoned for peaceful expression of political views," she added.

The Asia Watch reports said there is no indication that the lifting of martial law has led to the release of any political prisoners.

China regards Tibet as an integral part of Chinese territory, but many Tibetans disagree and favour independence.

Chinese officials disclosed plans Wednesday to extend birth control policies to Tibet, a vast

Election gives Burma a chance to heal wounds

RANGOON, Burma (Agencies) — Burma's first competitive election in 30 years may have given this impoverished Asian nation a chance to start anew in building a democratic government.

But scepticism and anxieties persist about how the powerful military, which has held authoritarian power since 1962, will react to this dramatic turn of events.

To the surprise of many analysts, the country's leading opposition party appears to have scored a massive victory over conservative, pro-military forces.

Although the final official tally from Sunday's general election is still not in, all unofficial counts show the National League for Democracy (NLD) will have a large majority in the new parliament.

The state radio reported Tuesday that the party officially had won 41 of 43 seats for which results were available so far; the other two seats went to other pro-democracy parties.

Officials said league candidates were winning an average of 72 per cent of the ballots cast, compared to about 15 per cent for the pro-military party. Complete official results may take up to three weeks to compile.

The league's leader, Kyi Maung, said he was sure it had won 322 seats, or 66 per cent of the total in the national legislature, the Hludaw.

The mood in this city of moldering, British colonial era buildings has changed dramatically since the election.

"On Saturday, people dared not take the leaflets I was handing out, now they take freely," a woman party organiser said Tuesday. But the future still appears unclear. The military has promised to turn over power after the new parliament completes a new constitution and a strong civilian government is in place.

"It's still a very murky situation. It has never happened before and I think the army is still scratching its head and wondering how to handle it," said one senior Western diplomat.

"If you look back in history, the army's attitude is not firm. They often change their colour — do you see the point?" said an NLD official, who requested anonymity.

It was the army that killed several thousand, mostly unarmed civilians when the country rose up against inept, authoritarian rule in 1988.

A group of military leaders, led by Gen. Saw Maung, crushed the uprising in September 1988, imposed martial law and made widespread arrests.

It did call for general elections and for a time allowed relatively free political activity.

But when opposition leader Aung San Snn Kyi, the charismatic daughter of independence hero Aung San, dared to criticise the military and gathered mass support, she was put under house arrest last July. The co-leader of the National League for Democracy, Tin Oo, was jailed and former Prime Minister Nu also remains under house arrest.

Other political prisoners remain in detention and arrests continued until just before the election. Five days before the balloting, Zangana, a popular comedian who took part in the 1988 uprising, was sentenced to five years by a military tribunal.

Given this prelude, diplomats, human rights organisations and others branded the elections fraudulent. Yet from all available accounts, including observation by foreign correspondents, the balloting itself was scrupulously free and fair.

Some analysts speculate that the military may have miscalculated.

"They simply did not realise how deeply unpopular the (pro-military) National Unity Party, and by extension they themselves were," said another Rangoon-based Western diplomat.

But whatever happened in the past and whatever the military's future plans may be, the opposition is taking the election at face value: The military called an election, pro-democracy forces won and now have a mandate from the people.

Although noting numerous hurdles before a democratic government is a reality, the diplomat added: "We are in a different ball game and I think that this is marvellous."

People who until recently did not dare to approach foreigners in public are speaking freely, although they do not always want their names printed.

"I am very happy to see fresh new faces in parliament and I'm glad to see those old cronies who had devastated the economy leave the scene," said one retired civil servant. "This election has turned a page in Burmese history."

This is not the first effort at democracy in modern Burmese history. After independence from Britain in 1948, a parliamentary democracy was established.

It scored some successes but factionalism, ethnic minority rebellions and other problems plagued the fledgling experiment. The army stepped in on several occasions and finally seized power in a 1962 coup led by Gen. Ne Win.

Ne Win and his one-party government led the country on the path to economic ruin, isolationism and political stagnation. He retired in 1988 and some say his withdrawal from the political arena contributed to the election triumph of the NLD. Others believe he is still pulling strings behind the scene.

BBC journalist expelled

Burma's military authorities Wednesday expelled a BBC journalist who they said was covering National Assembly elections without a proper visa.

The official Working People's Daily newspaper said Lindsey Chanson was illegally reporting news for the British Broadcasting Corporation's Burmese and English-language radio broadcasts. Chanson arrived in Burma last Thursday on a business visa and was staying at the Strand Hotel, where foreigners' movements are closely monitored by plainclothes security officials.

He was forced to check out of the hotel Tuesday and was due to leave Burma Wednesday's flight to Bangkok, hotel staff said. No correspondents were granted visas to enter Burma in the run-up to the elections, but the authorities changed their mind at the last minute and allowed in 60 foreign reporters.

Managua, contras agree on development zones

MANAGUA (AP) — The government has agreed to create more than 20 "development zones" where the estimated 12,000 rebels and their families can settle after being disarmed.

The agreement was signed Tuesday night following talks that resumed earlier in the day between the government and leaders of the rebels, known as contras.

The negotiations had been suspended Friday after the contras alleged that 100 civilians and 14 disarmed rebels had been massacred by government troops. A government investigation turned up no evidence to verify the claim.

However, the government agreed to continue the investigation at the rebels' urging.

The development zone agreement was signed by rebel Commander Oscar Solabarrena, known as Ruben; Roberto Ferrey, director of the Nicaraguan Institute of Reparation; Gustavo Tablada, director of the Nicaraguan Institute of Agrarian Reform and others.

Under the agreement, the demobilised rebels agree to receive titles to rural and urban property within the development zones. They also will have priority to receive land confiscated by the former leftist Sandinista government.

Suspected rebels kill Manila council leader

MANILA (R) — Suspected Communist guerrillas shot dead a Manila urban council leader in a crowded street Wednesday in the fourth rebel attack in the Philippine capital in a week.

Ricardo Apalit Jr., Barangay (local council) chairman in the Manila suburb of Paranaque, was shot inside his car by two youths a week after receiving an anonymous letter with a black ribbon telling him his days were numbered, police said.

The mid-morning ambush occurred three days after the military deployed an elite combat force of 3,000 soldiers in Manila to counter what it said was a terror campaign by leftist guerrillas and rightwing rebel soldiers.

"It looks like one of their jobs," Paranaque Police Captain Alfredo Pascual said, referring to Communist death squads called "sparrows" for their speed.

Witnesses said Apalit was turning a busy street corner when two men in their 20s, armed with

pistols and accompanied by two lookouts, approached and shot him six times. As Apalit collapsed in his seat, the gunmen opened the car door and shut him in the head.

The killers then walked calmly into a department store and melted into the crowd, witnesses said.

Investigators said Apalit had recently barred vendors from setting up stands on overcrowded street in Paranaque in an effort to keep traffic flowing. They said that might have angered the guerrillas who have been trying to win support among the working class.

Apalit was the ninth victim of guerrilla attacks in Manila in the past week.

A colonel and four other people were killed on May 23 by gunmen firing from two vans. The following day, guerrillas shot dead two soldiers inside their patrol car. Last Sunday rebels killed another soldier as he chatted with friends in the street.

U.S.-Greece sign new military bases accord

ATHENS (R) — The United States and Greece, after years of disputes and tough negotiations, signed a new agreement Wednesday to keep American military bases in the east Mediterranean country, a Greek government spokesman said.

The accord replaces a previous five-year pact which expired in December 1988. The Americans had until the end of this year to pack up and go home unless a new agreement was signed.

U.S. Ambassador Alan Flanagan and Greek Ambassador Christos Zaharakis signed the new agreement Wednesday morning, Greek government spokesman Byron Polydoras told reporters.

The spokesman declined to give details on the new pact but earlier in the week said it would run for eight years.

The accord must be approved by an absolute majority in the 300-seat Greek parliament, where the ruling conservative New Democracy party controls

151 seats. The U.S. Senate must be informed about the new defence and economic cooperation agreement (DECA) but its approval is not required. The Senate has the power to reject only a full treaty, not an executive agreement.

Negotiations on a new pact opened in November 1987 but were marred by angry disputes between the United States and Greece's then Socialist government, which had vowed to close what its supporters called "the bases of death".

Talks were suspended in May 1989 but reopened shortly after conservative Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis took office following an election win on April 8.

Official sources on both sides said the accord would have no trouble winning approval in the Greek Parliament. The pact is certain to boost Mitsotakis's meeting with U.S. President George Bush in Washington on June 6.

Gorbachev must disclose Wallenberg fate — report

OTTAWA (R) — A new 1,200 page report released Tuesday disputed Soviet claims that hero-diplomat Raul Wallenberg died in 1947 and demanded that visiting president Mikhail Gorbachev disclose the fate of the man who saved thousands of people from Nazi death camps.

"The fate and whereabouts of Raul Wallenberg remain the most compelling blank space of Soviet history and a litmus test of glasnost," said the report prepared by Montreal law professor and human rights activist Irwin Cotler.

Cotler, chairman of an international inquiry into the Wallenberg affair, said copies of the report disputing Soviet claims the diplomat died in 1947 have been sent to Moscow but officials have yet to respond.

The report, 10 years in the making, was released to coincide with Gorbachev's arrival Tuesday for a Canadian stop en route to Washington for his summit meeting with U.S. President George Bush.

Wallenberg is believed to have been captured by the Soviets as the Red Army marched into Budapest where he had spent the last months of the war providing passports and diplomatic documents that saved thousands of Jews from being sent to death camps.

The Soviets have claimed that Wallenberg died of a heart attack in Luhianka Prison in Moscow in

1947. But in 1989 Soviet authorities changed their story and said Wallenberg was murdered. Only months later they reverted to the heart attack theory.

Cotler said he has been encouraged by the recent Kremlin admission that Soviet troops shot and killed more than 4,000 Polish officers at Russia's Katyn Forest in 1940.

"He (Gorbachev) has everything to gain and nothing to lose by releasing the information," Cotler told reporters. "Nobody would blame him for it."

Wallenberg would be 77 if he were alive today. The report contains a chronology of what Cotler claims is Wallenberg's years of imprisonment in the Soviet Union.

Perhaps the hardest evidence in the report is provided by eight prisoners in Vladimir Prison in the 1950s who testified separately to the Swedish embassy in Moscow that he was alive — years after he was said by the Soviets to have died.

It added that Dr. Elena Nikolajevna Butova has testified to examining Wallenberg in Vladimir Prison around 1980.

"The burden of proof is on the Soviets to rebut this evidence (that he was alive into the 1980s) which they have not done," Cotler told reporters.

The report includes testimony that Wallenberg's family gave to Soviet authorities in 1989.

Slum dwellers have little faith in Soviet reforms

ALMA ATA, USSR (AP) — The people who live in the hillside slums of the Central Asia city of Alma Ata have little faith in the latest Kremlin plan to salvage the economy.

"Honestly, I don't believe anyone anymore," said Valentina Bludova, 57, who was fired from the nearby slaughterhouse after she was struck on the head by a falling piece of machinery and knocked unconscious for six months.

Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov last week announced a plan for a painful transition to what he called a "regulated market," in which the state will surrender much of its control over the economy.

When Muscovites heard they could expect double food prices and massive layoffs during the transition, they began to clean

out the stores.

But halfway across the country, in Kazakhstan near the 5,000-metre mountains separating the Soviet Union from China, shoppers have not panicked. A children's store was stocked with baby carriages and toddlers' dresses, items rarely seen in Moscow.

Residents suggested the government would have a hard time winning public support for a programme that officials say will entail a two-year recession.

"I don't think it will be any better for me," said Tamara Sukhikh, 37, who earns 150 rubles (\$243) a month as a janitor in a packaging factory. "I fear higher prices. How can I take care of my family?"

Sukhikh lives with her husband and two children in one of many two-room shacks. The hovels are privately owned, but the bits of

land beneath them belongs to the state.

The rain pours through plywood ceilings of the home built by Sukhikh's parents just after World War II. Half the family sleeps on the floor. Furniture is not available in the stores.

A young mechanic lounging along Polzhayeva Street smoked cigarettes with friends in front of his weathered wooden shack that houses his wife, two children, his mother — and three other families.

The toilet is an outhouse, and water is bailed from a communal faucet. Residents say city authorities have never mentioned providing plumbing in the nearly 50 years since the shacks were built.

One of the government's announced reforms would allow the people of this slum, and those in millions of shacks and tene-

ments throughout the country, to buy a building lot.

"I don't believe it," the mechanic said. "The bureaucrats will just take my documents and keep them and do nothing."

As it is, he doesn't even dare repair the leaky roof. "If I did, they would ask 'where did you get the material?' And give me a fine," he said.

Bludova ran afoul of the bureaucrats when she took her housing situation into her own talented hands.

A widow who was abandoned by her second husband when she was unable to bear children, she bought a shack just big enough for a stove and a table for 10,000 rubles — \$16,600 at the official rate, or roughly six years' salary, not including the land.



Witchdoctor predicts Italy to win World Cup

NAIROBI (R) — A Kenyan witchdoctor has predicted host Italy will win this year's soccer World Cup. But Ahn Bakar Omar Shariff, who earlier this month correctly forecast that Manchester United would win the English F.A. Cup by one goal after drawing the first match against Crystal Palace, is keeping his options free. "Things could change nearer the time unless Italy follows instructions from their magicians," he told Reuters. To be on the safe side, he has picked five other strong contenders. He says reigning champions Argentina, England, the Netherlands, the Soviet Union, and Sweden all have a good chance should Italy falter. He gives Brazil and West Germany, both former champions, only a 50-50 chance of reaching the second. But neither country should be too despondent. "At the moment their stars are not shining too brightly, but that does not mean they have completely no chance," Shariff said. In the best tradition of football commentators, he quickly added: "Things are bound to change as the tournament progresses."

Soviets to receive spiritual messages

WASHINGTON (AP) — Soviet citizens depressed by rocky times in their country will be able to seek solace in televised spiritual messages from an U.S. pastor under an agreement announced Tuesday. Robert H. Schuller, founder of the popular "Hour of Power" television show, said he will make at least 12 monthly programmes to be broadcast across the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe during primetime. An invitation came from Valentin Lazutkin, vice chairman of the USSR State Committee for Radio and Television (Gosteleradio). According to Schuller, the Soviets believe his message — a blend of upbeat theology and self-help psychology — is tailor-made for them at this troubled point. "They said to me very clearly that they feel what they need is a religion that is practical, that will help them with the problems of daily life. That's been the hallmark of my ministry," Schuller said.

Actor to stand trial on drug charges

LOS ANGELES (R) — U.S. teenage film actor Corey Feldman cried when police found drugs in his car and denied they belonged to him, a police witness said. Feldman, 18, a co-star of such films as Goonies, the Bubs, and Stand By Me, was also nervous when he was ordered out of his car, said police officer Edward Maytorena. "They're not mine," Maytorena quoted Feldman as saying. Prosecutors claim two small balloons containing cocaine and 23 small balloons containing heroin were found in Feldman's garage-filled car after he was stopped for speeding March 9. Los Angeles Municipal Court Judge Marel Injekjian ordered Feldman Tuesday, after a preliminary hearing, to stand trial on charges of possessing cocaine and possessing heroin for sale. If found guilty on both counts, Feldman could be sentenced to up to eight years imprisonment. Feldman told reporters outside the courtroom during a break in the proceedings: "I feel good right now. Hopefully, everything will work out for the best."

Farmer shoots suspected 'peeping Tom' helicopter

PARIS (R) — A French farmer, angered when a helicopter buzzed the swimming pool in which his wife and teenage daughters were bathing, shot at it, wounding the pilot and forcing him to make an emergency landing. Aerial mapping pilot Gerard Harteaux told French radio from his hospital bed that he nearly crashed after he was hit in the leg by one of three bullets fired from a boat-hunting rifle by the irate farmer.

'Baby Doc' leaves Khashoggi's villa

NICE, France (R) — Former Haitian President Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier has moved from the Riviera villa of Saudi Arabian businessman Adnan Khashoggi where he